additional grant of Rs. 700 to meet the expenditure. It was placed before the Finance Committee and was passed by that Committee. The articles of furniture, as I said, have already been supplied by the workshops and the amount is required for payment to the workshops which will be done by book adjustment. I hope that the House will allow this small grant.

PRESIDENT: Moved that the supplementary grant for Rs. 700 be made under Taxes on Income for the supply of furniture for the use of the Income Tax Collectors, Trivandrum and Alleppey.

The grant was made.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 100 for the payment of remuneration to the Co-operative Inspector who was entrusted with the work of translating the Devadhar Committee Report into Malayalam. The Malayalam translation has been printed and copies, I believe, have been placed in the hands of such of the members of the House as desired them.

In discussing this demand for a supplementary grant, the House has been permitted to discuss the Report itself. I may state, for the information of the House, that the Committee was composed of 5 non-officials and 2 officials and was therefore predominantly non-official in character. The recommendations of the Committee were the result of a close inspection of a large number of societies throughout the State, a careful examination of a very large number of witnesses who were actually working in the co-operative field and a careful study of the very valuable suggestions tendered to the President by some of the leading co-operators in the town of Trivandrum. The recommendations are already engaging the serious attention of the Government; and the Government are anxious to have the valuable opinion of this House before they arrive at any decision in respect of these recommendations.

I shall now content myself by referring to some of the most important and major recommendations in the Committee's Report. I consider the second part of the Report —

PRESIDENT: The question now before the House is the translation of the Report into the Malayalam. Everything that is relevant to that issue alone need be explained to the House. This is not yet the stage when the recommendations of the Committee are under discussion.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): Sir, I request the House kindly to pass this small grant of Rs. 100.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I rise to a point of order. It is stated that on this demand the President will allow a discussion on the Co-operative Enquiry Committee Report. I wish to know whether that discussion is sought to be allowed now.

PRESIDENT: Only if the House passes the grant.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Then may I know what is the motion that remains to be discussed ?

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PRESIDENT: Yes, I quite see. The order in which I should like speeches to go on will be after the motion has been made, and then Honourable Members, who wish to indulge in any expression of their views, will be given the first opportunity, and then the Registrar in charge of the Department will sum up in the end. That would be the proper order.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): This was not the procedure that was followed when the Education Committee's report was brought up for discussion.

PRESIDENT: So far as our rules are concerned, they are somewhat deficient in the matter of bringing a report for discussion in the House. There are rules in other Legislatures where the Government member moves that the report be taken up for consideration. But here it is different. Therefore it was I said that after the present motion is made, the honourable members will have an opportunity of expressing their views and that, after hearing them, the Government member will express his views.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): If the President has no objection, the House would like to hear the official member first.

PRESIDENT: I have no objection.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): We may start the criticisms ourselves, Sir. What the President suggested seems to be the correct way to approach the question.

We shall oppose it on various grounds.

PRESIDENT: That will be the correct sequence. However, we are now discussing a matter for which there is no rule.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): I think it will make matters easy for us to grasp things and clearly face the situation if we could hear the official member first.

PRESIDENT: The impression is that the report has been read by members.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): But we would like to hear what the department has to say.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Why should he lead us?

PRESIDENT: Is it the desire of the House that honourable members should first be allowed the privilege of expressing their views and then the head of the department should be allowed to sum up?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I rise to a point of order. It has been ruled by the Chair that only such questions as are relevant to the translation of the report will be allowed. The discussion of the report is a very much larger matter and we are not now concerned with the recommendations contained in the report because the Chair has ruled that. We are accustomed to take the ruling of the

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Chair as final and so the discussion should be confined only to such matters as are relevant to the question now before the House.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps the Chair was not correctly understood. All that the Chair attempted to say at the time the official member was speaking was that at this stage his remarks must merely confine themselves to the motion for the grant of a sum of Rs. 100 for the purpose of translation of the report, that, according to the permission given, honourable members have got the privilege of discussing the contents of the report and that, when honourable members have exercised that right, the Registrar, as official member on behalf of Government, will certainly express his views after hearing the views of non-official members. That, as I understand, seems to meet the wishes of the House in general. The Registrar will certainly not be precluded from saying a word about the report. Of course he will have his turn.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand.

PRESIDENT: There is also a cut motion. Mr. Asan has given notice of it. I do not know if he insists on it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I do.

PRESIDENT: It has repeatedly been held from the Chair that these token motions are not at all admissible when supplementary demands are before the House. Indeed from the proceedings, the honourable member himself could have gathered that the rulings of the Chair were delivered on no less than three different occasions and are to be found at pages 224, 805 and 807 of Vol. II of the Proceedings of the Travancore Sri Mulam Assembly.

The aim and purpose of a cut motion, as has so often been discussed, is merely to convert a cut motion into a vehicle for the purpose of bringing under review the policy and principles underlying the administration of a particular department in respect of which a grant is moved. This opportunity is afforded to the House on every occasion when the Budget is presented and the demand relating to every department is placed before it. A supplementary demand stands on a different footing altogether. Either the grant is made or it is refused. When a supplementary demand is made, it does not give the House another opportunity of bringing under review the policies and principles underlying the entire department for which the supplementary demand is made. That is to say a discussion of the principles is out of order. Therefore I rule this motion as out of order.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): As a personal explanation, I wish to make a submission to the Chair. The object of my token motion has not been stated along with the motion. The motion itself—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): I rise to a point of order. Can a member rise to a personal explanation after the Chair has given its ruling?

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PRESIDENT: No. There cannot be any personal explanation after the Chair has given its ruling.

Of course, I should have added that, as a special case, because there is no rule laid down on the matter and because there was no precedent on the subject, the President has allowed the members to discuss the Devadhar Committee Report on this demand. That being so, the object of the cut motion being otherwise fulfilled, the cut motion cannot by itself be admitted.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, I rise to oppose the demand on the main ground that there is no necessity, according to me, to translate the report into Malayalam. I wish to make out a case that the report does not deserve to be translated into Malayalam, by referring to the reactionary features contained in the Report. Sir, while offering a few remarks on the Report, I seek your permission to indulge in a little bit of a biography.

PRESIDENT: Not very long I hope (*laughter*).

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Not very long. I have been the President of the Taluk Bank at Nagercoil for the last three or four years. It is second in importance to the Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank. It has got, next to the Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank, a huge clientele. I must confess that I entered the institution as a layman, and still remain a layman and do not at all persuade myself to believe that I have become an expert in co-operation. All the same, Sir, I may say that that institution controls the different societies affiliated to it very efficiently, and this fact will be borne out by the periodical audit and inspection reports, of the Co-operative Department. My experience there is that the success of co-operation and the co-operative movement depends solely on the character, conduct, integrity, and the spirit of self-sacrifice on the part of the co-operators, and their zeal that is shown in the common interests of the country. That is the brief biography I referred to.

Looking at the Report from this point of view, I must say, Sir, that the Report is very dull reading in spite of nearly 400 pages of printed matter. It is true, Sir, that the Report contains numerous quotations not only from recognised authorities on co-operation, but also from certain responsible officers serving in the provincial Governments. It consists of so many different parts: firstly, there is the recommendation of a draft Bill consisting of several sections based on the main principles of their recommendations; secondly, a compendium of recommendations; and thirdly, if I may call it, an appendix. But I must frankly admit, Sir, that there appears to me nothing original about it. In fact, we were expecting something original in spite of the majority of the non-officials that composed the Committee, who may pretend to be experts. I am sorry I am sorely disappointed because it lacks the originality that one expected of the expert members of the Committee. A grip on details also is not found in it. A close analysis of the co-operative institutions working in the State is not found in it, excepting a cursory inspection of 35 societies and an examination of 600 witnesses.

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I find from the preliminary remarks of the Report that the President was absent. He could not be with the Committee in their tour programme on account of a serious surgical operation. Naturally, he could be with the Committee only at a very late stage. Evidently, the investigation and enquiry had been made ready for him, before he took up the actual work in hand. So much so, Sir, I may be permitted to infer that the President of the Committee could not have had that opportunity of personally listening to witnesses examined and much less to know the real condition of the different institutions, the representatives of which might have been present before the Committee for giving evidence. That is why I find that a grip on details is found wanting. Sir, in short the whole Report appears to me to be one that could be produced without any reference to an elaborate enquiry, one that might be produced by one overnight sitting of the Committee. That being so, Sir, I do not know why so much money has been spent over it. It appears to me like spending money for appointing inexperienced persons as the Head of the Department and then deputing them for study of co-operation abroad and when they return after spending so much money, they return just like a horse which may be taken to the river by one man but cannot be made to drink even by twenty men. I certainly think that our Government never bargained for that. We expect hard labour of the Committee as a result of which something helpful will come out. The impression one gathers from the Report, produced after six or seven months of rambling through the State by the Committee, is that of a big mountain in labour as a result of which a very mischivous mouse has been produced. That mischief could be seen in the suggestions in the several clauses of the draft Bill. For instance, I will refer to the provision relating to the making of bye-laws for the conduct of Co-operative Societies in the State in general. At present, the bye-laws are made by a general body meeting of the Society and then they are forwarded to the Registrar for sanction. But at page 200 of the Report, a reference has been made to this under which the power of making bye-laws is given to the Registrar also. Sub-clause (4) of Clause 12 of the draft Bill runs as follows :—

"Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Registrar shall have power to make, alter, or rescind any bye-law of any society registered under this Regulation."

So it takes away the power of the general body. The Registrar himself *suo motu* can exercise the power not only to make bye-laws but also to rescind them. That is an absolute power which is inconsistent with the spirit of the co-operative movement, a movement broad-based on democratic principles.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*) : May I inform the honourable member that the draft Bill prepared by the Committee is only a *draft* Bill which has yet to be introduced into this House for discussion, and may I also draw the attention of the member to the fact that the Committee has not made any specific recommendation based on the draft Bill ?

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The draft Bill is a compendium of the recommendations contained in the several pages of the Report.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): I question the correctness of that statement.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): At any rate that Bill is based on the recommendations accepted by all the members of the Committee. It is very wrong in principle. And it is not possible for any co-operator to accept it.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): The draft Bill was prepared by the Committee not as an expert Committee able to deal with technicalities of law. It is merely a compilation of the existing enactment in Madras, Mysore and Bombay. The Committee was fully aware that the Bill will have to be introduced into the Legislature.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the Registrar whether this Bill incorporates—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether a question can be put to a member who is not in possession of the House?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I thought the Registrar was in possession of the House.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I may assure the learned Registrar that my point is also the same. The Committee has copied from Madras, Mysore and Bombay. It is not an expert one and hence the Report does not deserve our very serious consideration. But at the same time, I may be permitted to have my way of studying, understanding and presenting the principles contained in the Report. I want to emphasise the point that Sub-clause (4) affects the very foundation of the co-operative movement. It takes away the self-reliance and initiative of the societies and seeks to confer on the Registrar power to make, mar or rescind any bye-law. The present practice is for the general body to pass a bye-law and then submit it to the Registrar for sanction. The Registrar cannot at present make or rescind any bye-law. He may suggest back to the general body any modifications. This clause in the draft Bill is, therefore, not an improvement in this respect. That is why I submit to the House that there is absolutely no necessity to have such a reactionary Report translated into Malayalam. At least those who do not know English may be spared this disappointment.

The next point is—

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I do realise that Honourable members who have to speak on this have a wide field to cover. I do not want to stifle discussion on this very important matter. But seeing that there is only one day allowed to this discussion, members have to keep in mind the value of time. If I find that opportunity will be denied to other members who are anxious to speak I will have to restrict the time to 15 minutes.

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You will have to finish in 5 minutes.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I was interrupted by the learned Registrar.

PRESIDENT: That is why you have been given 5 minutes more.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLI (*Tovala*): May I request the President to see that I am not further interrupted.

PRESIDENT: I shall see to it.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): The next point I wish to deal with is in regard to the Reserve Fund. The Registrar is given power to sanction the appropriation of reserve as he likes. But I take it that Reserve Funds are generally intended exclusively to stabilise the financial position of the bank or society, as the case may be. I also understand that the draft Bill is the embodiment of the salient suggestions offered by the Committee. That is why I rely more upon the draft Bill than on the stray sentences found in the body of the Report for purposes of my review. Therefore I have concentrated my attention only on the draft Bill.

I was saying that, in regard to Reserve Fund, the Registrar is given power to deal with the appropriation of Reserve in whatever manner he likes. If he thinks that it may be utilised against the very object for which it is created, there is nobody to question him. That position should certainly be done away with, as it seriously militates against the object of the Reserve Fund.

Then the other point is about the provision for surcharge. That is a very dangerous provision. If any person or officer who has taken part in the management of the society is taken by the Registrar to have misappropriated or defalcated money or other property of a society, the Registrar can straightaway, of his own motion, make an inquiry into the conduct of such officer and pass an order requiring him to repay the money along with interest thereof. What I beg to submit is, it may be left to the general body of the society and on the recommendation of that body this situation could be dealt with. If the Registrar by himself is empowered to haul up a member and make him liable to pay the amount if he thinks fit, that is not an agreeable proposition. With reference to this I may cite an example to show how the Registrar may be reasonably held responsible for surcharge. Generally, societies are audited by departmental auditors. The audit of a particular society was made in 1108 and in that report it was found that the Secretary was in possession of cash to the extent of Rs. 4,900 as against the bye-law of that society which enjoins that only a sum up to Rs. 10 may be kept in hand as cash by the Secretary. Beyond that sum of Rs. 10, no amount shall be kept in hand. In this particular case, the Secretary was found to keep in his possession Rs. 4,900 which was nearly five hundred times the maximum amount provided under the bye-law, which may be kept in hand. That is what the audit report says of that society. The Registrar's order as found there on the audit report sheet was to the effect that the management board deserved all congratulations. Subsequently, as ill-luck

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would have it for the society, the Secretary was hauled up in a criminal case for defalcation to the extent of Rs. 10,000 during the year 1109.

I shall also say for the information of the House that the departmental auditor had audited this particular society from the year 1106 up to 1109 and the excess money found in the Secretary's possession was as follows:

1106	cash in hand Rs.	1,048
1107	...	2,627
1108	...	4,000
1109	... over Rs.	10,000

And now he is involved in a criminal case for misappropriation. What I wish to make out is that this defect in audit which could be traced to the departmental officers and to the Registrar led to misappropriation on the part of the Secretary who was tempted to it. When such is the case, how can the question of surcharge safely be left to the decision of the Registrar? I am unable to say.

Another point, that is the mischievous part of the Report, is that there are certain statements under cover of quotations which are not at all faithful quotations. They are misleading to a degree I shall point out one instance and I shall be done. That quotation is put as having been spoken by a Swarajist Minister. I have very great admiration for Swarajist Ministry. I feel very strongly at this attempt to mislead by quotation which has been stated in the Report as having been spoken by a Swarajist Minister of the Central Provinces, namely, Mr. Khaparde. The quotation reads as follows:—"We have tried a kind of democracy in this movement and we might as well try a benevolent dictatorship to a certain extent for a time etc"., and the Report says that Mr. Khaparde half seriously put the question to the Amraoti Conference of the most leading co-operators in the country and asked the conference to consider the question of the "benevolent dictatorship" of the Registrar. This statement is put in the mouth of the Swarajist Minister, Mr. Khaparde. This is the first time in the co-operative movement I find the expression "benevolent dictatorship" has been introduced. That statement is put in here to the effect that he observed as I read before from the Report, whereas in fact it is not so. It was not so; but some body else suggested to him. Ordinary people might naturally believe from this Report that a Swarajist Minister might have said like that and given expression to such sentiments. The fact is otherwise and the mischief is deliberate. Anyway I am disappointed to see such a misquotation in the body of the Report. I do not know whether after all a Swarajist Minister would endorse the position of the benevolent dictatorship in the co-operative movement. This is what the Swarajist Minister in fact said at the Amraoti conference referred to in the Report. I am reading from a copy of the proceedings of the above-said Conference. "I lay before you a suggestion for your consideration without expressing my opinion about it. The suggestion

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is that the distrust so far exhibited against Government should wear-out in face of the fact that the co-operative department is a transferred department and further provincial autonomy should command complete faith in the Ministers to come. It should therefore be possible to invest the Registrar with powers which have not been hitherto vested in him. We have tried a kind of democracy in this movement and we might as well try a benevolent dictatorship to a certain extent for a time".

But here the Registrar is not responsible either to the Co-operative Society or to this House so that he may be controlled by the will of the people, as otherwise obtainable in a ministry. Let us see what answer is made to the suggestion thrown by Mr. Khaparde as having been made to him by responsible persons. Here is a relevant quotation of what was said in reply by no less a person than the Honourable Mr. Ramadas Pantalu, who is considered to be an authority on co-operation in South India. This is what he says :—

"Sir, in the course of your inaugural address yesterday, you invited the conference to express its opinion on a suggestion made in some quarters to vest the Registrar with more powers and to make him a sort of benevolent dictator, while assuring us that you will keep an open mind on the question till you ascertain all points of view. The remedy is to wind up the movement in the province and not to replace the non-official by the official agency, for dictatorship means nothing less".

In reply to this the Honourable Minister said, "I have said in my address that it is not my suggestion nor have I expressed any opinion of mine".

In face of this truth, how could the Report misquote the facts except it be to throw dust in the mind of gullible readers. Sir, it is an insult to the intelligence of co-operators in Travancore. The Registrar member of the Committee knows it better and he must be held answerable for this lie.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I have great pleasure to support the motion. The President of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee, Mr. G. K. Devadhar in particular, and the members of the Committee in general are to be heartily congratulated for the excellent report that has been drawn up and submitted to the Government on the co-operative movement in Travancore, suggesting various ways and means for its development as well as improvement. At the very outset, so far as my personal knowledge of the co-operative movement in the State goes, I should submit that the position of the Registrar should not be lowered a bit. He must practically be made a benevolent dictator. Even though the movement is purely a non-official one and the members concerned in the institution are non-officials, it is not at all safe, in the interest of the co-operative movement and in the interest of the finances of the State and the safety of the public, to entrust such institutions entirely into the hands of the non-official body.

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[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

Coming on to the various recommendations made in the report, I have to say that there are some recommendations which are acceptable and some others which are not acceptable. There are various recommendations which are really commendable and acceptable and there are certain others that cannot be accepted by the authorities concerned.

There is the recommendation No. 24 which says that Government should place, at the disposal of the Central Bank, a fairly large portion of the money allotted every year under agricultural loans to be paid to the members of the societies on proper recommendation and good security for purposes of granting medium-term loans for agricultural improvements on the joint recommendation of the Registrar and the Bank. I cannot agree to such a proposal. The grant of loans should be transacted through the Revenue Department. All the people in the State are not going to be members of the co-operative society. Only a small portion of the population would become members of a co-operative society and it is only the Revenue Department that comes in direct contact with the agriculturists. Therefore, it is better and safer that the amounts allotted for the agriculturists are entirely left to the Revenue Department, so that the needs of the agriculturists may be attended to promptly and properly, and an opportunity be given to them to approach the Revenue authorities in the matter of getting loans.

There are other legal and practical difficulties also that would stand in the way of entrusting these amounts to the hands of the co-operative societies. It is the duty of the Revenue officers to see whether the loans that are advanced to the agriculturists are really spent for the purpose for which they were granted. It is the Revenue Department that has to see to the amount being properly utilised for the purpose for which they were advanced. And again, they have to be realised together in a lump sum and at once if the amount is found abused or misused. In these circumstances, it is safe that the amounts allotted under agricultural loans are entrusted solely with the Revenue authorities, and through the Revenue Department they are disbursed.

There is another recommendation, *viz.*, that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should also be the Protector of Depressed Classes. It is true to a certain extent that the present Protector of Depressed Classes is not protecting the interests of the depressed classes at all; rather he protects himself. There are various complaints made by the representatives of the depressed classes themselves that the present Protector is not discharging his duties to their entire satisfaction. It might be that the cost for which a Protector is appointed is high. But the cause of the depressed classes is so great that he should see that the interests of the depressed classes are safeguarded in every stage and under all circumstances. The work involved upon the Protector of

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depressed classes is very heavy. He must be a separate individual and the Registrar should not be invested with the powers of the Protector of the Depressed Classes. Both the Registrarship and the Protectorship should not be amalgamated and merged in one person. There shall be two separate persons as Registrar and Protector of Depressed Classes. Perhaps by this recommendation the Committee meant to make certain retrenchment; and the effect of that retrenchment attempted to be gained at the sacrifice of the depressed classes would be penny wise and pound foolish. Their interest, sacred as it is and great as it is, must be safeguarded by a separate officer.

Recommendation No. 149 deals with the starting of depressed class colonies in the State. In this connection, I may refer to a fantastic proposal of the President of the Travancore and Cochin Harijan Sevaka Sangham that the Devaswom Fund be utilised to help the depressed classes. It would appear that the Devaswom Fund can be swayed at random. Devaswom Fund is not intended to mitigate the difficulties of all the people in the State, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. If the President of the Sangham had suggested that the Devaswom Fund shall be utilised for the regeneration of the Hindu depressed classes, then I could have understood it. That very same mistake was committed by the Education Reforms Committee also. That Committee also suggested that the Devaswom Fund should be utilised in order to disburse scholarships to students for their study in foreign countries. Here also there is an instance like that. The representative gentlemen of the House should not give sanction to utilise the Devaswom Fund for the starting of poor colonies in the State. Among the category of the poor people not only are there Hindus but there are Christians Musalmans and others as well. In order to see that the condition of all these poor people are advanced and improved, to utilise the Devaswom Fund, which is purely Temple Fund and Hindu Fund, is most unreasonable. With regard to the poor colonies, the present policy of the Government is to see that they are opened in mountainous areas and far away places where people do not inhabit. That is a very bad policy. The depressed classes shall not be isolated or excluded from the ordinary inhabitants. In the case of depressed classes and poor people, concessional lands must be given in places where other farmers and the rich landlords live, or else they will be left helpless. I remember instances of poor colonies being opened in mountainous places, for instance, in the Nedumangad taluk. There at the time of the recent malaria outbreak, the local Tahsildar, the Dewan Peishkar and myself witnessed the sufferings of these poor people for want of labour. Those people are willing to work. But there is nobody to employ them. If at all poor colonies are to be opened, it shall not be in separate places but it must be amongst other people. Poor people must be given lands for habitation, but they shall not be segregated or isolated from other people.

1 Recommendation No. 216 deals with the admission of students to the Co-operative Central Training School. Herein there is a sugges-

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tion that admission shall be restricted to graduates and graduates alone. Unfortunately, the members of the Committee have thought that holders of university degrees alone shall be entitled to hold posts down from Police constables up to the Dewanship. That is their idea. Most of the sufferings of the people of Travancore, nay of the Indian Empire, is due to the giving of higher education. The so-called University education actually dims diamonds, but it may polish the pebbles. My suggestion is that this recommendation is not acceptable. The minimum qualification shall be matriculation or school final. The maximum may be B. A. or M. A. We are not particular about the maximum qualification for admission to the co-operative Central Training School.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Cannot the vernacular school leaving certificate holders be entitled to admission ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Yes, I quite agree with my learned friend that Vernacular School Leaving Certificate holders shall be entitled for admission.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Can B. L.'s be admitted ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : There is no objection for that. The present system of higher education has occasioned an economic drain, a physical degeneration and intellectual stagnation and ruin and it has killed originality and imagination.

Recommendation No. 238 says that only graduates shall be appointed as Supervisors in future. This is most objectionable. When once we allow undergraduates admission to the Co-operative Training School and those candidates become successful in the school, they shall be appointed, whether they are gradutes or non-graduates, irrespective of their University qualification, to the post of Supervisiors.

In Chapter XXIV, recommendations Nos. 257 to 272 deal with the reorganisation of the Co-operative Department. The whole of the recommendations are good ; but they are not acceptable at present.. I emphasise the word "at present". The recommendations are excellent, But the present economic depression is acute in the State, however much the authorities may try to belittle it, as will be evident from the speech of the Financial Secretary yesterday. The authorities are not aware of the prevalence of the economice depression in the State. Otherwise the Financial Secretary would not have prepared and presented a Trivandrum Budget yesterday. So I would suggest that, in view of the prevailing economic depression in the State, in view of the sufferings of the people, and in view of the difficulty that the Government will have to experience in the matter of incurring enormous expenditure by appointing an army of officers in order to man the Co-operative Department, as a responsible citizen I suggest that it shall not be accepted and given effect to at present. These are some of the bad features of the recommendations.

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Then there are some excellent recommendations. The suggestion not to encourage the registry of communal societies is an excellent one. Feelings of communalism are to be seen even among the Heads of Departments. There is the feeling of communalism only among the educated people. There is absolutely no communal feeling in moffusil places. Communalism should be done away with.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is there any communalism in Nedumangad?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Absolutely none. Fortunately or unfortunately, since Nedumangad is a backward taluk in point of education, there is no sort of communal feeling in Nedumangad.

PRESIDENT: That is a redeeming feature.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): It is the University degree holders without any employment that inspire communal feeling. We find that there is no communal feeling in any other place.

Recommendation No. 167 says that Banks and Co-operative Societies should be compelled to utilise their resources built by them out of their profits to wipe off the agriculturists' debt and reduce their sufferings. Recommendation No. 101 helps to encourage weaving. Departments of Forest, Excise, Police and Military should be advised, as suggested in the Report, to make purchases of clothes from weavers societies. So far as the weavers societies are concerned, it is an excellent suggestion which would advance weaving in this country. Recommendation No. 106 points out the need for the starting of stores of their own in all schools and colleges of the State. If we start stores in Colleges and High Schools of the State, the students who undergo education in these institutions will have a practical training in regard to co-operative methods. Recommendation No. 122 suggests the idea that co-operative house-building should be popularised in the State. And the State should afford everything to help them for that purpose. I hope that this recommendation will be accepted by Government when they bring into force the Town Planning Scheme. They are going to see that all the lands are acquired on both sides of the roads to be opened in the town. When they do so, if co-operative societies are organised for the purpose in the town, under the assistance of these societies, where lands are acquired, buildings may be constructed. Recommendation No. 136 suggests that co-operation should be made a compulsory subject in High Schools. Recommendation No. 166 says that debt conciliation boards may be set up and the amount of debt for repayment should be compounded at 65 per cent. of the total debts. This will give relief to the economic indebtedness of the State. In chapter XX, recommendations Nos. 195 to 198 deal with co-operative marketing and putting up of ware-houses with Government grants. Recommendation No. 214 suggests the immediate starting of a Co-operative Central Training School in Trivandrum. This would really give an impetus to the co-operative movement in Travancore. These are some of the important recommendations which the Government could accept without expending any great amount. With these remarks on the Report, I support the motion.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : Sir, it is a very important subject and I do not want to leave unsaid what I have to say. I am thankful to those members who have retired giving place to me and I am equally thankful to the President for giving me a chance to speak. I rise to support the demand.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumagad*) : I rise to a point of order whether a member could thank any other member or the President?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I thank not for any favour. In the course of a speech, informal thanking is an expression of meaning that I appreciate certain things. I meant that and I suppose Mr. S. J. Nair also understood it. I do not want to pursue that point any further. Whenever Mr. S. J. Nair makes any sensible proposal, I will thank him.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : I rise to a point of order. Does it not mean a reflection on the member when he said "whenever Mr. S. J. Nair makes any sensible proposal"?

PRESIDENT : You may proceed with your speech without any preliminary observations, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, does it not cast an aspersion on the member?

PRESIDENT : I do not think that he meant it.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : When we occasionally use some words, we have been often times obstructed and we are called to order by the Deputy President on those occasions (*Hear, hear*). When he speaks as an ordinary member, should he not also be guided by the same rule?

It should not be that one member can cast aspersions, while others should be cordial.

PRESIDENT : I did not catch any aspersion. What was the aspersion?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : When he said that "when Mr. S. J. Nair makes any sensible suggestion" : it means Mr. S. J. Nair usually makes suggestions which are not sensible.

PRESIDENT : I am sorry I did not feel like that. When any member makes any sensible suggestion he thanks him. I am quite sure that, if Mr. Velu Pillai meant anything like that, Mr. S. J. Nair would not have remained quiet.

MR .T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : I do not want to say anything on that. I may just mention for the information of those who may take different views that I have taken sufficient care in learning English; and in English I propose to speak and I may say that I understand the value of every word that I use.

Sir, Mr. Govinda Pillai, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, wanted to say something about the Report and the way in which he began his speech was such that I remembered the old days when he made excellent speeches. But I did not hear him as to the reasons by which he would support the grant.

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PRESIDENT : You will hear him later on.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : The fundamental defect in this Report is that it has been drafted by a Committee in which there was not a single lawyer as a member. The lawyer has got the habit of keeping issues very clear. Co-operative Societies are worked in pursuance of a Regulation, so that if there was a lawyer of some experience on the Committee, we should have had very good proposals in it as to how the law on the subject may be modified. Not that I do not value the learning of the gentlemen who were there. Many of them are experienced co-operators and one or two of them are very good students of economics. But the absence of a lawyer has been rather injurious.

I want to say, Sir, that the Co-operative Department, like some other Departments in Travancore Government service, was the sporting ground for people for many years. When irregularities have been discovered and when enquiries have been called for, the officers of Government representing this Department have stoutly opposed any enquiry being made. I am thankful to the Committee for recording what they believed to be absolutely justified in their opinion. Sir, it has been our experience that people who have had a good career in other departments, no sooner they were drafted to the Co-operative Department, wanted to leave the Department as early as possible. Why is this? You may remember Sir that Dr. Johnson when asked by Boswell " What is it that you like most in Scotland ? " replied " The way that leads back to England. " That seems to have been the position with the Heads of the Co-operative Department. I am thankful to the Committee for the valuable suggestions they have made on this point in the report. A gentleman who is placed as the head of co-operative movement must believe in co-operation. He must remain in the department for as much time as it is possible for him consistently with his own self-interest in the matter of salary which Government may provide. What is the use of placing the Co-operative Registrar under a miserable pittance when people who do no better work in other departments are given better pay. I find in every other country a District Officer, or a Collector, as in British India, who has the position of a Division Peishkar in our State, is the head of the Co-operative Department. Unless you give the same status to the Registrar here also, where is the enthusiasm in this workaday world of ours for a man who thinks he cannot improve his position however sincere he be in his work? I wish this point will be noted by Government.

The second point that I wish to mention is that many of the officers of the Co-operative Department are lacking in the proper knowledge of the working of Co-operative Societies. In the first place, they have been given too much work. Societies and societies have come into existence which have had short periods of existence and there are others whose names are merely entered in books but which exist without doing any work. But whatever that be, these officers who go about inspecting these Societies do not succeed in forming clear ideas of

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

their work. With the small pay and travelling allowance given to the Head of the Department, it is not possible for him to inspect all the societies and he seldom succeeds in understanding the actual state of affairs That is why the circumstances pointed out by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai have been possible.

The next point I wish to stress on is the necessity for improving the Co-operative Institute. The Co-operative Institute, if properly encouraged, will be an excellent institution which can give ideas, which can train officers, and which can train people who are interested in co-operation. I think that the encouragement now given to the Co-operative Institute is not satisfactory.

Much has been said, Sir, about communal representation, communal societies and so on. I am of opinion that any kind of communal feeling in the co-operative movement has to be stamped out and I am sure that the whole movement will interest itself in that measure. But I am obliged to say that, whatever be the views with regard to communal questions, the distinction between graduates and people without qualification cannot altogether be forgotten. Graduates are efficient; but I wish to inform the House that it does not mean that all people who are not graduates are necessarily inefficient. I find that graduates *i. e.* men who have taken degrees in literature and science are more efficient than people without degrees. But there are others also who are able to do the work, so that if there is any man who takes real interest in co-operation in the country, if such a man is prepared to come forward, he should not be refused to work. It is a question of compromise between graduates and non-graduates. Efficient graduates should be taken and efficient non-graduates also, if I can use that expression. In these matters much remains to be done. The Registrar must have powers. He must have large powers. But I do not believe in any kind of despotism. So far as Co-operative Department is concerned, benevolent despotism does not commend itself to me. But that does not mean the Registrar must not have powers. He must have the courage and the initiative to do things; he must have the necessary stimulus, he must have the necessary funds supplied to him, and Government should do their best to improve the modern economic position through the co-operative movement.

Of course, there are a number of topics dealt with in the Report. It is a matter of opinion whether the Report is overdrawn. I personally think that it should have been shorter. The question is whether it contains grain or chaff. I am of the most deliberate opinion that it contains mostly grain though it contains chaff also. Let us winnow the contents. Let us take the grain and neglect the chaff.

One word more on the Department. I myself made an observation in the old Legislative Council that the Travancore Government is keeping some of these Development Departments as old *Sanyasins* do who used to keep horses, elephants, camels, and other animals, giving them food just sufficient to keep them alive. Rather than keep these departments half-starved, abolish them. That is my opinion. My belief

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is that, if you want nation-building activities to prosper, if you want the Co-operative Department to be successful in its work, encourage them by giving suitable grant and also by giving suitable advice, for, I consider, whatever may be the principle of democracy, whatever may be the knowledge of individual members of Government, Government has to possess a correct knowledge and I wish Government will always extend the benefit of that knowledge for the proper working of Co-operative Societies.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the demand before the House is for a small sum to meet the expenses of translation. A large majority of the people in the State do not know English and to say that they shall not read, to say that a Malayalam or perhaps even a Tamil translation is a luxury is to deny them of the rights of a citizen. After all, the amount is very small and the translation is very important. Therefore I support the motion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir,—

PRESIDENT : Would it not be more convenient if the House now adjourns as there are only 5 minutes to 1, and meets again at 2 0' clock.

The House adjourned for lunch at 12-55 and reassembled at 2. P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Sir, I support the motion before the House. I avail myself of the opportunity of making a few remarks on the very important report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee.

Sir, this is a subject which deserves the very serious attenation of this House and Government, because co-operation is perhaps going to be the one solution for many of the pressing problems that affect the agriculture and the small industries of the land and the organisation of capital in many ways. We have to look at the recommendations of the report from a dispassionate stand point and express our opinions on the recommendations with the sole object of promoting the ultimate good of this country. The report, nobody can say—even those who have got to say much on its bulk and want of arrangement—none can say that it is uninteresting. Sir, I have found it to be very interesting reading. And the one significant feature of the report is that it is interesting, and the very entertaining manner in which various problems regarding co-operation has been discussed and the thorough grasp shown of the problems as they existed and the solutions found in various other parts of the world and India is commendable. That it gives up-to-date information on many matters cannot be denied.

It is impossible to attempt a discussion of the very many proposals contained in the report. So, I wish to confine myself to one aspect of the question which seems to have received a great deal of attention in the Press and among the Co-operators in Travancore. That question, broadly stated, is the question of the control or the amount of control that the State or the Government should exercise or exert as regards the co-operative movement, *i. e.*, the position of State authority

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

with regard to the control of the business of Co-operative Societies. That seems to be the subject which has attracted the greatest attention and the real controversy with regard to the report, I believe, centres round that. I wish to address myself to that question first.

Sir, the question as to what part Government ought to play in the matter of control of the co-operative movement has been the subject of discussion not only in India but even outside India, *viz.*, Europe. I may, at the very outset, say that there is no co-operative movement anywhere devoid of Government control. The only question is with regard to the extent of control or the degree of control that could be exercised by Government consistent with the democratic principle underlying the co-operative movement.

It has to be noticed that there is substantial difference between the history of co-operation in India and outside. That is a very relevant point to be borne in mind when we discuss the amount of control to be exercised by Government in the matter of the co-operative movement. In Europe, the movement was started by non-official agencies. Government looked upon it with suspicion. It took time before Government gave up their hostile attitude and admitted that the co-operative movement is one that should be encouraged. Just the reverse is the position in India. Here the co-operative movement had its origin on the initiative of Government; and the co-operative movement, as it is at present, lives mainly on the prestige of Government, on the confidence that Government have been able to generate among the public; and that fact is of paramount importance when we consider this question of the amount of control which that Government ought to exercise.

Ideally speaking, it may be stated that the co-operative movement is a democratic movement with self-help as its motto and the whole control should be left in the hands of non-officials. But, Sir, one who studies this question carefully and one who has at heart nothing other than the development of the movement for the benefit of the country cannot but admit that it can ill afford to be absolutely free from Government control. And it is recorded as the evidence collected by the various Committees that enquired into the question including the expert Committee *i. e.*, the Townsend Committee. The volume of opinion tends to the view that official control of Government should only be lessened gradually and it should not be taken away all at once nor should it be relaxed all on a sudden. In India and in Travancore, the co-operative movement is largely a credit movement. The activities of societies are largely credit activities. Credit activities could be carried on successfully and satisfactorily only to the extent of confidence that the movement can bring about among the ordinary public. It is more necessary than in Commercial Banks whose outturn is quicker and who are able to attract capital in various ways. But the movement in Travancore has to depend to a large extent on the confidence of the people. And that confidence will be lessened, if Governmental control is lessened or taken away.

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In the matter of control, there are three ways by which the Government exercise it. That is by supervision, inspection, and audit. These three activities may be co-related but they are different. Supervision is a continuous process whereby the department not merely finds fault with the Societies concerned, but it also goes a long way in the matter of giving advice and education that are necessary to the movement. That is a continuous process.

With regard to inspection, it can be done as a sort of supervision in one sense, but it is only occasional. That is the difference between inspection and supervision.

The third method of control, namely, audit is periodical. Though there are shades of difference with regard to these methods of control, they over-lap one another. These are the three essential ways by which the departmental control is exercised on the movement.

So long as our co-operative activities confine themselves to the credit side of the movement, I do not think it would be wise to relax it any the least. If Governmental control is relaxed, public confidence will be shaken and with the shaking of confidence, credit will suffer. But, Sir, I should not be misunderstood as stating that Government should interfere with the movement in such a way that those who participate in the movement, that is, the non officials, will find the control irksome. They should not be made to feel the control exercised by Government offending to their self respect. That must be guarded against. And the public should not be lulled into the belief by the excessive interference of the department that they may sleep over the whole matter thinking Government will do everything for them. The golden rule with regard to the degree of interference has been laid down by Sir Horace Plunkett on a memorable occasion in these words :—"State assistance should be given so as to evoke and supplement, but on no account to provide a substitute for, voluntary effort".

In the British Indian Provinces, Government are relaxing their authority over the movement step by step, cautiously. The trend of policy should be like that. But, in Travancore, it must be remembered that the Societies have been developed without paying proper attention to consolidation. The number has been increased. I find, from the statistics, about two lakhs of members and about 2,000 Societies are now in existence. From the point of view of number, this is perhaps the highest figure for any province in India. But I am not sure that the consolidation effected with regard to the Societies has been adequate. The report, in my opinion, takes a correct attitude when it says that it is not yet time to relax fully the control of Government and in certain respects, especially with regard to audit, inspection and supervision of the Societies, the control of Government should not be relaxed. And if we wanted to fulfil the ideals of democracy by taking away the control of Government in the movement there is no doubt that it would lead to the utter

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ruin of the movement in the State. The real sympathisers of the movement should see that adequate control is exercised over the activities of Societies by the Government.

We find in the Societies one great defect in Travancore. Many members of Societies are themselves debtors to the Societies. On the whole, the trouble arises on account of the fact that many people go and join Societies only because it affords them easy credit and they think that it is the easiest way to obtain credit. With this sole purpose in view and without understanding the cardinal principles of co-operation and without being able to act according to those principles, the so-called co-operators of Travancore are not in a position to develop the movement on proper lines. This defect has been pointed out in very strong language ; and adequate importance has been given to it by the authors of the Report.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : One more point Sir, and I am done. I want to press upon the attention of Government regarding the choice of Registrars for the department. This is of paramount importance. It is necessary that Government should exercise their discretion with great care in choosing the Registrars. They must see that the Registrar must be a man who will understand the non-official points of view with sympathy. It is due to the happy choice made by the Government of India in the earlier days that the movement throve in British India. The Registrar should not be the authority merely to find fault or over-awe the non-official members engaged in the movement ; but he should be the "guide, philosopher, and friend" of the workers. He has got a very great trust entrusted to him. His job is one of the most difficult and unenviable. He should be a votary of the movement and he should indeed be a real enthusiast to infuse enthusiasm among the workers. The control exercised by the Registrar should not be misunderstood by the general public. He exercises all his authority for the good of the movement and he should evoke that feeling among the workers and the general public.

I hope Government will consider the question of raising the status of the Registrar and of choosing proper persons for the post, men who will be able to so exercise their authority as not to create any friction with the non-officials, men who will be able to create confidence in the public.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : I have very great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. In doing so, as one who has been associated with this movement for the last 12 years, in some ways very prominently too, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Government for appointing a Committee of enquiry to conduct a good survey of the condition of the movement in the country and to make recommendations and suggestions as to how it could be made to confer on the people the benefits expected of it. I express my thanks to Government also for giving this opportunity to this House, composed of the representatives of the people of the State, to express

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their views on the condition of the movement in Travancore and also on the recommendations embodied in the Report of the Committee.

Sir, it is now 20 years since the movement has been introduced in this State. I should think it has come to stay. But those who are associated with the movement have to say that it has not made satisfactory headway. The Report makes a clear survey of the whole situation and analyses the defects of the movement as it is worked here. I have every praise for the Report. It has made a very searching enquiry into the affairs of co-operation in Travancore and the framers of the Report have shown their thorough insight into the condition of the movement at present in this State. It is a valuable document worthy of careful and close study at the hands of those who have the interests of the people of the State at heart.

Now, going through the report, I find that the defects in the movement and the causes that retard its further progress in Travancore, are three-fold. The Report makes use of the word 'un-cooperative'. That is a word which appeals to me very much. As one who knows something about co-operative activities in South Travancore, I read very great meaning in that word. It is pregnant with meaning. One who knows conditions of co-operation in Travancore can speak for hours together on that one word 'un-co-operative'. I shall come to that later on. It is clear, Sir, that there is something wrong somewhere. The co-operative movement has not been able to confer, on the people of Travancore, the benefits expected of it. What are the causes?

In the Report, I find three outstanding causes mentioned. The first is neglect of co-operative education and propaganda, resulting in the lack of knowledge of the fundamentals of co-operation. The second is want of proper leadership; and the third, want of liberal financial aid from the Government. I shall offer a few remarks on these three causes which have been so ably elaborated in the body of the Report.

I have always emphasised, Sir, that co-operative propaganda should, in future, be resorted to on a larger scale than it has hitherto been done. I have even spoken about that to the present Registrar who, in my opinion, is a very capable, energetic and enthusiastic person.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is the Report of the Committee that is, now before the House. The personnel of the Co-operative Department at present, is an entirely different matter.

MR. J. M. JOSEPH (*Nominated*): What I wanted to point out was that, in spite of the fact that very able men have been the Head of the Co-operative Department, the movement has not been able to make that progress expected of it. That is the only point that I wanted to urge upon the attention of this House when I referred to the present Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

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[Mr. J. M. Joseph.]

In regard to propaganda, Sir, my humble suggestion is that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should be asked to go round and do some propaganda work himself. I am afraid he has been tied too much to his office and to the files there. He can do very good propaganda by interviewing the Presidents and Secretaries of the various co-operative societies and by organising or by helping the organisation of co-operative conferences in various centres. Our people have yet to be educated a good deal on the principles of co operation. It is the want of knowledge of the principles of co-operation that has been the cause of so much of misunderstanding and suspicion among co-operators themselves which has been standing in the way of the progress of the movement.

Want of leadership is another point referred to in the Report. Men imbued with missionary zeal, devotion and enthusiasm must be attracted towards the movement and must guide the movement. The movement is said to be essentially a non official movement. That is true. It is also true that there are so many non-officials in Travancore, with great capacity, influence and education, who are running the whole show and who are taking very prominent part in our co-operative activities. Still, the movement is not progressing satisfactorily. There is one defect that I have observed as President of the Nagercoil Co-operative Union. Out in the villages, I always find that it is the men who are Presidents of the co-operative societies that wield greatest influence in the village. Unfortunately, these people do not *save* the people but *devour* them. As it is commonly stated in the vernacular of the country, they have come not for *rekshikka* (രക്ഷിക്ക) but for *bhakshikka* (ഭക്ഷിക്ക) not to *save* but to *devour*. Sir, I have got very great respect for many of them. But there *are* some who are out simply to use their position to gain their own ends. Therefore it is I say that some more propaganda work is necessary. More co operative education must be resorted to, so that the people may be properly educated on the ideals of co-operation. In this connection I support the recommendation of the report for the starting of a Central Co-operative Training School in Trivandrum, the Capital of the State. There, even non-official gentlemen can be given some course of training. That institution can arrange series of lectures.

I now come to the absence of adequate financial aid from Government. I am sorry to say, Sir, that Government show a kind of apathy towards the question of giving liberal grants to non-official agencies such as the supervising unions. The Report gives a comparative statement showing the Government grants in Mysore, Baroda, the Punjab and Madras. While it works out at 14 annas and even Re. 1 and 4 annas per head of population there, it works out at only 4 annas per head here. The figures speak for themselves. The Government here is—I will not say miserly—not coming forward with that liberal help which the

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non-officials need very badly. I may say that the Co.operative Department here is a starving department. I do not hesitate to make use of that word.

I shall now refer to the recommendations contained in the Report. There is very great difference, Sir, between the Head of the Co-operative Department and the Head of other Departments. In the Co-operative Department, the non-officials play a very important part. The whole show is run by them. Supervision and control is done by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Naturally, therefore, sometimes. there is a tendency, for the non-officials on the one hand and the Registrar on the other, to pull in different directions. The result is this. Sometimes the Registrar feels that his authority is resisted, his decisions challenged. That is his grievance. The non-officials, on the other hand, complain that the Registrar is interfering so much as to fetter their freedom. Whoever is guilty, it is a sorry spectacle to see these two agencies pulling in different directions. It must be ended. That is the point which I want to press upon the pointed attention of Government. Some steps must be taken. The present state of affairs is going to prove ruinous to the Department and to the interests of co-operation in the country. Personally, as a responsible man, I care very much for the prestige of the Head of the Department. If his prestige goes, if his authority is challenged, the whole discipline in the department will suffer. That will be ruinous to the whole movement. I therefore heartily support the recommendation in the report that the Co-operative Department should be made a major department, the status of the Registrar being correspondingly raised, not with a view to make him a benevolent dictator or an autocrat but only to make him a philosopher, friend and useful guide as my honourable friend put it just a while ago. This is a department in which the officials and non-officials rub shoulders more than in any other department. Authority has no place here. Persuasion, love and ability to inspire confidence in the non-official section of the population, it is these that count greatly for the success of the movement which is the sole objective of this department. I do not want to go on dilating upon that. I shall confine myself to the recommendation contained in the report that the status of the Head of the Department must be raised. Unless that is done, there will be a tendency on the part of the non-officials even to slight him. The control of Government, which is very necessary, will surely get lax and that has to be guarded against. And this is a department which deals most with non-officials. I therefore heartily support the recommendation in the report that the status of the Registrar must be raised.

With regard to the suggestion for the establishment of an Advisory Consultative Board consisting of non-officials, I heartily support that also. That will form the very necessary link between the officials and the non-officials. It will be a sort of tempering influence over the Registrar, if he happens to take too much authority.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: This is a very important question, and several members are coming forward at the same time to speak on it. The Chair is in a very difficult situation. Not that the Chair is going to shelve its responsibility. As far as possible, I wish to give opportunity to the various parties of which notice has been taken on previous occasions. To the best of my judgment, I shall distribute opportunities to the various parties, and also to those who do not belong to the parties. I hope all will have opportunities. Later on, if it is found absolutely necessary, the House will agree with me if I say that the time allotted for a member may even be less than 15 minutes, say 10 minutes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, the demand before the House is in respect of the vernacular translation of the report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee. I take it, however, that it is not the faithfulness of the translation or its literary excellence or any other merit or demerit that would form the subject of discussion on this demand. I may also say at once that, whatever view we may take about the original report, I, personally speaking, have no objection to this amount being granted to a low-paid subordinate of the Co-operative Department, who, as ordered, has done this work, since it is only fair that work exacted should be paid for. Now in the present instance, the Government are prepared to stretch a point and allow the House to express its view upon the original report itself, a rare phenomenon, so far as the Government are concerned in their dealings with the House.

Taking up, therefore, the original report, I may point out to the House that this report has been reviewed by expert co-operators. There is a review of it in the *All-India Co-operative Journal*, Vol. I, Part II, which shows that the report, after all, has not received anything like unmixed praise. No doubt, the expert body conducting the journal refer to much useful information collected together, comparisons instituted between the situation in Travancore and outside and so forth. But such conventional courtesy has not restrained adverse criticism directed against the vital parts of the report and its weight cannot be lost sight of when we consider the report in this House.

It has also to be stated, Sir, that, within the time limited to each member in this House, namely about 15 minutes or so, it is physically impossible to do anything like justice to the discussion upon this report. Therefore, only a few cardinal points can be taken up for discussion: and one such fundamental point, as has already been observed by one of the learned speakers, is the blend or ratio in the admixture of the official and the non-official agency in co-operative work. As he pointed out, it is probably difficult, as has never been found practicable hitherto, to entirely eliminate the official element. I was listening to him very carefully when he maintained not to relax the official hold. That may be conceded. But the cry to *increase* the official hold—what about that? That is a question we have to consider. In the present instance,

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what we have therefore to see is whether this report attempts at lessening of the official hold or an increasing of the official hold or leaving that hold as it is. The learned gentlemen who prepared the report, or the Committee, as the Registrar of Co-operative Societies said with something like triumph, no doubt consisted of five non-officials, who have subscribed to the report without demur, but that fact is nowhere to the purpose. They start the consideration of this question at page 20 of the report, with a sliced quotation from what Mr. Khaparde had said at the Amaraoti Conference—a sliced quotation, I say, because it does not set out all that Mr. Khaparde had said on that occasion, a mutilated passage which, having been removed from its setting, is sufficiently misleading as to what Mr. Khaparde said on that occasion. The committee put it down that they have not been "materially swayed" by what Mr. Khaparde said on that occasion. Now, the position requires a little examination. What Mr. Khaparde said in his inaugural address on that occasion was subsequently reported in the *All-India Co-operative Journal* and I see that he was quite explicit and extremely guarded that it was *not* his personal opinion that he was putting forward but the suggestion of certain persons entitled to speak on the subject why a measure of benevolent dictatorship may not be tried in the place of the existing practice. Though this was an utterance from the Chair, in thanking the Chair it was opposed by no less a co-operator than Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu who pointed out that the suggestion was antagonistic to the principles of co-operation. It is a very interesting discussion, and if you would permit Sir, I shall read out a small portion from what Mr. Ramadas Pantulu had to say on that occasion. He said

> "But speaking for myself and for a large body of non-official co-operators, I must say that dictatorship is fundamentally opposed to the very essence of co-operation. If you think that non-officials have failed to conduct the movement on right lines and are incapable of improving even with official guidance and advice, the remedy is to wind up the movement in the province and not to replace the non-official by the official agencies, for dictatorship means nothing else. It will kill all sense of responsibility in the non-officials. As for the dictator being benevolent, he will be the sole judge of the amount, of benevolence which he puts into dictatorship".

Ultimately the Conference passed a resolution which distinctly shows at any rate that any increase of the powers to be vested in the Registrar was very seriously resented.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The quotation is very interesting; but unless the people who wrote the report say that there should be a dictatorship and that the Registrar should have such large powers as amount to his becoming a dictator, I do not know whether the quotation is relevant.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Amalapuzha I*): I am only laying a foundation for further argument. I shall show that the Registrar's powers are attempted to be increased in the present instance.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I would like to know whether the Committee are of opinion that the Registrar should be given such large irresponsible powers.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Yes. The resolution No. 16 A is one in which the Amraoti Conference disapproves of recent attempts in some provinces to increase official control over the co-operative organisations as running counter to the principles and objects of the co-operative movement. A number of subsidiary resolutions were also passed. Therefore I am submitting that this quotation at page 20 of the report which is likely to mislead one as to what was done at the Amraoti Conference is not a safe guide to start with. Though the members of the committee said that they have not been materially swayed by what Mr. Khaparde had to say at the Amaroti Conference, I shall show that they *were* materially swayed.

Sir, I shall draw the attention of the House to certain provisions in the proposed Bill contained in the report. As for the Bill, that is proposed by the Committee, they have prepared a background in the discussion which precedes the Bill. It may be that the legal draftsmanship of the Bill is open to improvement because, as the learned Registrar pointed out, they had no lawyers with them to draft the Bill and they might have stood in need of help to lick the Bill into shape. It is not the form in which the Bill has been cast by the Committee that I am concerned with. It is the substance that is intended to be included in the clauses of the proposed Bill that I am concerned with. In one of such provisions, we have got the following matter provided for. Page 264 of the report read with what is contained at page 40 of the report sets out a recommendation by the Committee that, in the matter of the Central Co-operative Bank, the Government should reserve to themselves the power to nominate three members in the board of management. A similar provision is found at page 158 of the report as regards the Central Institute. In the board of management of the Institute, the Registrar and his two nominees are deemed indispensable. At present, the Central Institute and the Central Bank have no nominated members on their bodies. So for the first time in this report we see the proposed official penetration. The Registrar is not content with his advisory function. The Registrar or, for that matter, the Government want to take power to nominate three members to the Board of Management of the Central Co-operative Bank. Is it not a distinctly retrograde step, from a non-official point, that is proposed in this report? The pretext for it is a very strange one. The committee unanimously recommend that communal co-operative bodies should be discouraged. The largest number of communal bodies in the State are Nayar organisations next come Christian organisations. All these will be discouraged hereafter. No countenance will be lent to communal organisations. But when it comes to the question of the management board to the Central Co-operative Bank, all this is forgotten and all on a sudden an inconsistent plea is put forward that all communities should be represented on the board. Hence the power for the Government to nominate three members to the Board of Management of the Central Co-operative Bank. Is it not an unwholesome interference, an unjustifiable interference with the Central Co-operative Institute and the Central Co-operative Bank? What has

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been the effect of the non-intrusion of three nominated members hitherto? So far as the Central Bank is concerned, it is an institution, as shown by the report itself, to be quite flourishing, and functioning with considerable success. Now, if in the case of a flourishing institution like that, the report wants the inclusion of three nominated members, I say it is a retrograde step.

Other retrograde steps may be seen, Sir, in the matter of provisions enabling the Registrar to take over the management of any society if he so pleases. In the case of joint stock corporations, even a court will hesitate to do that. In the matter of justiciable issues, the Registrar is invested with all manner of powers. I may refer to the opinion of Professor Khaji and Sir Horace Plunkett to show that, if a society can be conducted only in the leading strings of Government, it had better be wound up. There is a recent publication by Dr. Eleanor M. Hough on the co-operative movement in India and, in the foreword to that work, Professor H. L. Khaji, professor of Commerce and Economics, Bombay, says that, in order to make co-operation a true force, progressive de-officialization of the movement is a matter of immediate concern. The views of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee are to a similar effect. See Dr. Hough's Book at page 225, where that committee's view to slacken official control in order to popularize the movements and to create a sense of responsibility, is quoted. Legal training is quite necessary for the Registrar, for he is practically a court. I agree that the Registrar must be a respectable officer, so that he may be a guide, philosopher and friend to the Societies.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): How many nominated members are there in the Central Board in Madras and Mysore?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am not sure. Here in Travancore there have been no nominated members and no misfortune occurred on account of their absence.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): Sir, I welcome the main recommendations contained in the Report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee. I am sorry that the recommendations are not drastic enough to wipe out irresponsible societies which only help to increase rural indebtedness. I yield to none in my support of the co-operative movement. I have no quarrel with those who contend about the ideal conditions under which co-operation must flourish, that it is a poor man's movement and that there must be the least possible official interference under normal conditions. But what are the conditions now obtaining in Travancore? We have got nearly 2,000 societies; 99 % of these societies are credit societies. In advanced European countries, we see that the principle of co-operation is essentially applied to production and consumption. The best results are obtained in working Consumers' Societies and Producers' Societies. But in Travancore any man without any immoveable property or credit can borrow 100 or 200 rupees if he can get into the society as a member. There is the additional attraction that this amount may be paid in easy

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[Mr. Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon.]

instalments. What is the result? The amount is borrowed and it is used for non-productive purposes. The average income of a Travancorean is very low and there is not even a nominal surplus. The result of all this is that the instalments are not paid on due dates and the debtor is in the clutches of the octopus of debt, so that young men of talents who have some chance in life are done for with this initial debt. There is the accumulating interest and penal rates which swell the amount in the twinkling of an eye. Sir, I know cases in Shertala where names of fictitious persons had been entered in the records of Co-operative Societies for obtaining illegal loans. Even the names of dead persons appear as borrowers. Sums of Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 are advanced in the name of people who had been dead and gone ten or twelve years ago. Sometimes the signature of some illiterate woman is forged and she is made a debtor. She knows that she is a debtor only when her milch cows are attached. My submission to this House is that, as responsible citizens of Travancore we ought to invest the present Co-operative Registrar if he is found lacking—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I shall not allow any reference to the present Registrar—about his lacking in or his possessing certain qualities.

MR EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertalla I*): Dictatorial or exceptional powers for a period of four or five years may be allowed to the Co-operative Registrar. Let him discourage credit societies and establish consumers' and producers' societies on a sound basis for the real rural uplift of Travancore and for relief of indebtedness.

Regarding the main recommendations, I wish to stress one or two points. The report emphasises the difference between short-term and long-term loans. The Report also emphasises the necessity for utilising more and more the crop-loan system, especially in Kuttanad and other low-lying regions where the poor agriculturist has necessarily to depend upon money-lenders to raise his crop. The crop-loan system might be tried successfully in many parts of Travancore as has been done in Mysore, the Punjab and Central Provinces. I welcome the Report because I see that it has substantially affected vested interests. It has resulted in a tussle between the Co-operative Department and the Trivandrum Central Bank. It you examine the Trivandrum Central Bank, it will be seen that it is more or less a private investors' concern. Its aim is profit and not the improvement of poor people. The Land Mortgage Bank—the inception of which we owe to the munificence of His Highness the Maha Raja—is a very powerful agency to relieve rural indebtedness. I am glad the Report states that the present Land Mortgage Bank should not be handed over to the Co-operative Agency. The handing over of this institutions is a matter which cannot be favoured for a moment under the existing conditions. The scope of the Land Mortgage Bank must be expanded so as to cater to the needs of the majority of agriculturists; and branches must be established in main centres of agriculture and industry in Travancore. The Report says that there is a lot of malpractice and misappropriation and that

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prosecution must be started with diligence and in time. That is contained in their recommendation No. 72 and it deserves special attention. Even Taluk Co-operative Unions openly flout the orders of the Registrar. The Co-operative Unions vie with one another to ridicule the decisions of the Co-operative Department. Hence most of the illegal doings of societies which call for drastic action are not brought to the notice of the Co-operative Department. Even if these cases are brought to the notice of the Department, the Registrar is helpless to take action against these powerful organisations. He who runs can read clearly the impression that the ordinary villager in Travancore has formed *viz.*, that the Co-operative movement today is only intended to disintegrate the existing *Karayogams* and other useful institutions without giving a substitute for them. Under these circumstances, the responsibility rests with the representatives of the people, to ask the Government to take some drastic action. I do not deny that the Co-operative movement is a great movement, pregnant with possibilities for the welfare of the country. But we have to take stock of the actual conditions that are obtaining in Travancore and as practical and prudent men--as representatives of the people of Travancore, it rests with us to take such action as is necessary to eradicate these evils. The Co-operative movement stands discredited now and has become a password for perpetuating personal aggrandisement without doing anything substantial to better the material condition of the people.

Most of the societies are the nursing centres of communal hatred and rival cliques and in this tug-of-war of conflicting interests the poor share holder is left in the lurch.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : Sir, the Devadhar Committee Report is an instructive and interesting document. It contains very many valuable suggestions. My honest opinion is that these recommendations are of no avail to us at present. I have been a co-operator for the last ten years.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Please talk a little louder.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kottarakara*) : I have been a Co-operator for the last ten years and I claim to know the working of these institutions in the State. I can boldly say that most of the institutions are carried on very miserably. They are not properly controlled or effectively supervised by the Department. The office bearers consume a large portion of the working capital of these societies. If the Government appoint a competent person to make judicial enquiries about the malpractices of these office bearears, I am sure that more than 90 per cent. of them will be liable for criminal prosecution, for misappropriation, falcification of accounts etc., etc. Both official and non-official promoters are ignorant of the principles of co-operation. Under the circumstance, I do not wish to perpetuate these institutions. The Report clearly and unambigously says that these evils are existing and that they are difficult to be eradicated. This movement was started twenty years ago. Now there are about 2,000 societies and 2,30,000 co-operators. It is time for us to take stock of the advantages and disadvantages of this movement. The result is sorely disappointing. I can

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

say without fear of contradiction that this movement has caused untold miseries to several thousand people here.

The general impression of an ordinary co-operator is that this is a chitty scheme, which is started by the Secretary and he is entitled to deal with the fund according to his desire. In fact, the financial condition of the rural population has been considerably affected by the defective working up of these institutions. The authors of the Report also admit the existence of these evils. They also concede that no tangible result has yet been produced by the movement. The Report says, "Broadly speaking neither the material nor the moral results that are generally expected to flow forth from such movements have shown themselves and the disappointment was frankly expressed before us by many witnesses."

I myself was one of those witnesses who appeared before the Committee and expressed in very clear terms that this movement will not be crowned with success here. This movement was initiated by Government at a time when there was no demand for it from the people. This was practically imposed upon the people. On account of "hasty organisation, lack of education in co-operative principles and business methods and the absence of selection of human material", this movement has become sterile in the State. The report further affirms that "The present position is largely due to the early neglect of the root of the tree, resulting naturally in the unhealthy growth of its branches. Take care of the roots, the tree will take care of itself."

That is a universal law which has to be respected here as elsewhere. The roots have become rotten and they can never be revived. My opinion is that no amount of manuring and nursing will save the tree from destruction. It is decayed and it will fall down soon. It is certainly a futile attempt to improve the condition of these useless dormant societies. Hence I advise the Government to cancel all these unhealthy societies and start fresh societies after effective propaganda. I therefore strongly recommend to the Government that the Registrar and his staff may be utilised for liquidating all these institutions and devoting their entire time for distributing agricultural loans and Land Mortgage Bank Loans. I understand that the Land Mortgage Bank is not properly doing its work in that direction. The rural population of the State are not at all benefited by such loans. It will be useful if the Co-operative Registrar is entrusted with similar relief works.

MISS HEPZIBAH GNANASIKAMONEY (*Nominated*) : Sir, I should like to call attention to that part of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee's report that deals with the part of women in co-operation. In any scheme of co-operation, women must needs play a large part. They have the family income to spend and so would be important factors in the consumers' movement. Thrift should begin with women and national thrift is determined by the habit of thrift in the women of the country.

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Again, a large part of the women population is engaged in industry of one kind or another and the kind of industry they engage in is mostly of the cottage domestic type which stands to benefit by schemes of co-operative marketing.

Though in other parts of India, the ban against the public appearance of women may have some force, it has hardly any force in Travancore with its freedom for women and its achievements in the field of female education.

In spite of all the favouring conditions, co-operation has made very little headway among women in this country. There are only five societies and these are not in a prosperous condition. Most of them are conducted by certain women's welfare societies. The time is come therefore for the State to encourage the formation of women's societies and to supervise their working. The very fact that most of the societies now existing have been started by women's welfare associations shows that some kind of outside initiative is necessary. There might well be women Supervisors appointed by the Government. In Travancore, we have good raw material for women Inspectresses in the number of highly educated women. Most of these have also a strongly developed sense to help their sisters. If some of them are properly trained and appointed as Co-operative Inspectresses as the report suggests, the co-operative movement will make rapid progress among women. The suggestion of the report that, in the administration report of the department, the women's branch should have separate mention also deserves consideration. This would be an inducement for the Inspectresses to show progress of Co-operation among women.

Finally, the appointment of women to the boards of management of important societies should also be encouraged. I feel that the recommendations of the report in regard to the place of women in co-operation are well worth acceptance in full.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I am glad that this Assembly is given an opportunity to discuss such a valuable report prepared by the Co-operative Enquiry Committee. Unlike other reports which we have had occasion to discuss, I never thought that this report would give room for such controversy. One of the hon'ble members went to the extent of saying that there is not much originality displayed in the report under consideration. So far as I have been able to see, I am glad to note that the report contains much valuable information and many useful suggestions on the working of the co-operative department. Thrift, self-help and co-ordination of forces are some of the most important factors which contribute to the economic emancipation of a nation. As a matter of fact, these are the cardinal principles that underlie the co-operative movement.

The Committee have made an exhaustive study of the whole question in all its aspects and they have furnished us various recommendations. In the small compass of time allotted to each member, it is not possible for one to make a comprehensive survey of the whole

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[Mr. K. Padmanabhan.]

report. I only wish to suggest a few points that struck me for the consideration of Government. The need to purify and specialise the co-operative movement is keenly felt at the present time. Without better organisation of the co-operative credit system, it is not possible for the movement to make any impression on the economic life of the nation. Leaving big industries and trades to be financed by the State and also by the commercial banks of the State, it should be the primary look-out of the co-operative societies and banks to render financial help to small industries and trades and also for the improvement of the handicraft of the State. There are a good many cottage industries which are really suffering from want of adequate financial assistance; such industries should be adequately financed and that in turn will bring prosperity to the country.

Travancore is primarily an agricultural country; and to me it appears that it will continue to remain so for many years to come. Chapter VIII of the report contains very valuable suggestions for the improvement of agriculture and other connected industries such as dairy farming, poultry farming and so on. Cocoanut cultivation forms the most important avocation in the State. This cocoanut industry and cocoanut trade have been languishing for the past two years. It has been the universal cry in the State during recent years that cocoanut industry should be given all protection it wants by the Government. There has been constant agitation on the floor of this House on this question and the Government have been answering that they are moving the Government of India in regard to this matter. The Government of India is such a huge body which could not be moved so easily. What progress has been achieved by our Government in this direction the country is anxious to know. Every cocoanut producer is anxious to know what has been done by the Government of India in regard to this question and whether any substantial result has been achieved. Hitherto it has been our impression that the present deplorable condition of the cocoanut trade in Travancore is due to the dumping of Ceylon copra. But the report seems to attribute it to different causes. It says that the present state of affairs is mainly due to the absence of scientific cultivation of cocoanut trees, absence of organisation on co-operative lines, absence of scientific manuring and also deterioration in the quality of copra and coir in the country. Whatever may be the actual reasons for the present state of affairs, I think the Government should bestow their earnest attention upon this aspect of the question and find out adequate means to remedy it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is whether any proposal contained in the Report will solve that point.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That is a doubtfnl point. My point is that hitherto we were under the impression that the present state of affairs was due to the fact that large quantities of cocoanuts were dumped into India from Ceylon. But, as a matter of fact, the

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reasons given in the report are different. Anyhow, what I say is that earnest attention should be given by the Government to overcome this situation.

Constitution of co-operative stores in schools and colleges is a capital idea. Introduction of co-operative stores in schools and colleges will enable the students studying in them to get their necessary articles in the prescribed form, in good quality and also at cheap prices. The indirect result of the introduction of this system is far-reaching. It will give them a practical training in the habit of co-operation. It will also afford them good training ground for social and public work. I would specially draw the attention of the educational authorities to see that co-operative stores are introduced in each and every school of the State at the earliest opportunity.

(At this stage several members stood up to speak.)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : This is the first time that Mr. Sivaraman Nair speaks in this House and therefore he may have the preference.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvella II*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion. But in supporting the motion, I may be permitted to say that the amount of Rs. 100 offered to be given is but a very small amount in proportion to the amount of work the Inspector has turned out in translating the report. In making that remark, I am very sorry that the Government have not provided adequate funds to be given to that gentleman who had taken so much pains to translate this big volume.

On a careful perusal of the report, to me it appears that the greatest or the most important recommendation which has been made is that regarding rural indebtedness. Before this, that question has been discussed by several committees. Several committees have reported that it is a problem that the Government should take into consideration. This problem of rural economics is a very acute one and what is said about the Indian agriculturist that "he is born in debt, brought up in debt, and dies in debt, and bequeaths debt", will hold good in the case of the Travancore agriculturist also. It is quite true; it is more than true of the Travancore agriculturists.

Sir, I am very glad that the Committee has carefully gone into this problem and has made very valuable recommendations. But it is a different question whether the Government are going to accept those recommendations. I am very glad that the Government have considered the question some time ago and had allotted some amount for the relief of agriculturists, I mean the Land Mortgage Bank. Every agriculturist of the State is greatly thankful to the Government for the establishment of the Land Mortgage Bank. But it is not adequate. Even according to the last Census Report, the amount of indebtedness in the State is a very colossal figure. This problem of rural indebtedness, Himalayan as it is, is a problem which the Government is tackling with quite shyly. The Committee proposes that, even if the Government cannot find ways and means to meet adequately this requirement of the agriculturists, of the poor ryot, then Government will do well to

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float debenture loans. It is a very necessary thing so far as the ryots are concerned. A perusal of the Administration Report of 1102 discloses that the amount budgeted was Rs. 3 lakhs of which Rs. 50,000 have lapsed. It was not because the agriculturists were not in need of funds, but it was because of the want of sufficient opportunities and facilities for the agriculturists to get the funds, which have thus lapsed. This fact itself will show, without any argument at all, the need for the establishment of primary Land Mortgage Banks in different centres of Travancore. There is no need for any great or strong defence for that recommendation for it speaks for itself. The figures I have quoted above speak for themselves the necessity for the establishment of primary Land Mortgage Banks.

Sir, I am also glad that the Committee has provided a scheme for short-term loans. The transformation of the Central Bank into an Apex Bank, and the formation of new Taluk Banks where there are none, and the recommendation that all these Taluk Banks, Urban Banks and Banking Unions must be financed by the Apex Bank are very capital schemes. There are, no doubt, several Banking Unions and Urban Banks. But the amount available for their use is only very small. Really speaking, the poor agriculturists are not getting sufficient aid from them.

Several recommendations have been made about the reconstitution of the board of management. The Committee has also suggested that the rate of interest in all the Banks should be made uniform to prevent competition and that the Secretary must not be in the board of management. I very heartily concur with these recommendations.

Then I want to say something about the "non-co-operative movement" in our co-operative movement. Sir, I will not join with Mr. Easwara Pillai, when he says that, because there are diseases in the limb, the body should be buried deep. It is possible to make sufficient improvements in the working of the co-operative movement. The public opinion is completely divided, one part for the Registrar and the other for the co-operative institutions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What you mean is that some people are for giving larger powers to the Registrar while others are against it. Is that what you mean?

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvella II*): Yes, it is what I mean. If I am permitted, I will read two resolutions which have been passed at two public meetings:—

> "This Conference is of opinion that the Report of the Devadhar Committee reveals an attempt on the part of that body to place the movement under the unquestioned and unchallengeable control of a single individual, and as such is calculated to strike at the very root of the movement which in essence is a drastic one"

This is one side of the question. I will read another:—

"സെൻട്രൽ പ്രസ്ഥാനമായ ബാങ്ക്, ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്, മുതലായ കേന്ദ്ര സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റി

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നേയും അവഗണിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ചു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് കഴിവതുംവേഗം ഈ യൂണിയന്റെ അഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ സഹോദര ഐക്യസംഘപ്രതിനിധികളുടെ ഒരു കാൺഫറൻസ് വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടി വേണ്ടതു് ആലോചിക്കണമെന്ന് ഈ സമ്മേളനം തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നു."

What do these resolutions imply? These imply the two views about the working of the Department. This unhealthy situation must surely be made clear. This suicidal tug-of-war between the officer on the one hand and the Co-operative institutions on the other hand will surely end in very unhappy results, even destroying the whole co-operative movement in Travancore. But I am at a loss to understand how the raising of the status and pay of the Co-operative Registrar will help to remove this unhappy state of affairs. So far as these institutions are concerned, I think the Registrar will not be respected more merely because he has got a greater pay or because he has got a Rolls Royce car or he has greater status. What is wanted is real co-operative spirit and proper control. By control I don't mean dictatorship By control, I mean an effective and beneficial control which will render the working of the department quite harmonious and practical, which will be acceptable to both parties, officials and non-officials.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, as regards the motion before the House to the effect that a sum of Rs. 100 should be paid to the Co-operative Inspector who translated the Devadhar Committee's Report into Malayalam, there cannot be two opinions as to whether the amount is really due and should be paid to him I go further and suggest that the price of the Malayalam translation of the Report be so reduced by the Government as to make it available for purchase by the poorer classes of the population. I know as a matter of fact that—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether it is the price of the original copy or the translated copy that should be reduced?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): The translation—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: When he speaks of the Malayalam translation, it does not mean the original report.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I know that, as a matter of fact, ideas on the subject of co-operation have not been sufficiently diffused among the masses in this country and one of the means of enabling the general public to understand the nature and scope of the co-operative movement will be a perusal of this report. Mr. Joseph was speaking of the need of propaganda. I perfectly agree with him on that point. It will be a great help in that direction if the book is priced in such a manner as to admit of it reaching the general public. In this connection, I have to make another suggestion, *viz*.

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that the Report be translated into Tamil also, because a number of people who are ignorant of English in Nanjanad and other Tamil speaking areas will know the contents of this Report and it would be useful if a Tamil translation could also be published.

Coming to the main subject of discussion, I heard my friend Mr. Easwara Pillai speaking of the disgraceful way in which some co-operative societies have been working while the picture placed by him before the House is by no means our discussion. I feel that his counsel for the abolition of the Department is a counsel of disappointment. There are ways and means to improve the existing defects. One defect is that successive Registrars have vied with one another to increase the number of societies year after year without any regard to their quality. Several societies now in existence are neither strong nor even passably fit, and do not serve the purposes for which they were brought into existence.

Another defect is that the activity of the Department has more or less all along been on the side of starting credit societies and that no attention practically whatever has been paid to the starting of non-credit societies either on the agricultural or on the non-agricultural side. These two defects have got to be removed and I am glad to find that this is one of the recommendations of the Committee.

Much has been said in this House to-day on the necessity for additional powers being given to the Registrar on the one hand and for his existing powers being curtailed on the other. I have heard it said by some persons that the proper functions of the Registrar are registration, audit, arbitration and liquidation I, by no means, consider that these alone should be the functions of the Registrar. A very important function, at least as important as any of these, is inspection and supervision, and every power should be conferred on the Registrar which should make it possible for him to exercise healthy and effective supervision over the existing societies. That alone will generate public confidence in the movement. At the same time, I agree with those gentlemen who consider that there ought to be no scope for despotism here, either benevolent or non-benevolent. Benevolent despotism, to my mind, is a contradiction in terms. A despot may be benevolent to himself and those that surround him, but not to the wider public.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is it not benevolent dictatorship that was referred to ?

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Dictatorship is not different from despotism. I am prepared to change the expression into dictatorship.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Both mean the rule of one.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Yes.

It seems to me that one of the recommendations of the Devadhar Committee, *viz.*, the institution of an Advisory Consultative Board should go a long way to obviate the present difficulty and to produce a better understanding between the Registrar and his subordinates on the one hand and the general public on the other.

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Sir, another suggestion I have to make is that the post of Protector of the Depressed classes should be kept separate from that of the Registrar, and that the two functions should not be vested in one and the same person.

Great credit is due to the authors of the Report for their eminently useful production, and it is the duty of every citizen who has the welfare of the State at heart to give the praise that is due to them. I for one appreciate the Report, though there are certain portions of it that cannot be accepted by the Government or by the public. Such reports can naturally be only, like the Curate's egg, good in parts.

SRIMATHI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : Sir, I rise to support the demand before the House. To every one who has been watching the co-operative movement in Travancore, it must have been as plain as pikestaff that the movement has reached a stage when a thorough reorganisation in the light of past experience and with a view to greater usefulness is urgently called for. Thanks of the public are due to Government for having appointed a Committee to go into the question under the Presidentship of the verteran co-operator Mr. Devadhar and composed of members who are eminent co-operators. The Committee has submitted a Report, which, whatever differences there may be with regard to minor matters, is, it will be admitted on all hands, an exceedingly well-written and in every way a very important document. The Committee has gone into the whole question with a thoroughness which is highly commendable. The existing defects of the movement have been unerringly detected by the Committee and the remedy suggested and the reforms chalked out are such as will go a long way in developing the movement on sound lines.

One of the most important defects of the co-operative movement in Travancore is, it appears to me, the fact that the real spirit of co-operation has not been adequately understood and appreciated by those who are working in the field. To remove this defect, what is wanted is that greater efforts should be made for efficient propaganda work. I am glad to find that the Committee has devoted special attention to this important aspect of the question. For any scheme connected with efficient and successful propaganda, an indispensable requisite is the allotment of adequate funds and my request to Government is that they should not grudge a larger allotment to the Department for this purpose. With regard, for instance, to women's participation in the co-operative movement, which the committee has dealt with at length in Chapter XII of the report, I feel convinced that by well-directed propaganda if women had been educated on the usefulness and potentialities of the co-operative movement, there would have been a larger number of women co-operators than what we find at present. In Travancore at present there are only six women's co-operative societies and the total number of women co-operators is only 28,230. For a State like Travancore, with a high percentage of literacy and with a large number of educated women, we should certainly have a larger number of women's co-operative societies

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working for the promotion of thrift, cottage industries, milk supply, etc.. And it is also highly necessary that we should have a large number of women as members of other co-operative organisations in the State. This can be made possible by well-directed propaganda and, as suggested by the Committee, by the appointment of women Inspectors and women propagandists trained in co-operative work. I am sure that my brother members of the House will support me in this view, and I feel sure that the Government will also not fail to bestow their earnest attention on this matter.

Another important subject that I wish to refer to is regarding the part co-operation has to play in the economic improvement of the people. In regard to this matter also, the Committee has made valuable suggestions which ought to engage the immediate attention of the Government. It ought to be the earnest endeavour of the Government to encourage non-credit activities and also to promote schemes for the relief of rural indebtedness and for the advancement of rural welfare. The co-operative movement cannot justify its existence if it does not progress in these and other useful directions.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, it is with great misgivings that I have been listening to the debate. My reading of the Report tells me that there are many suggestions and recommendations therein that ought to be accepted by Government. But here I heard opinions which ranged from unqualified condemnation to very liberal praise of the Report. In such a situation, my experience of the Government it was that led me to the fears that I referred to. Sir, the Public Service Committee Report was discussed by the Legislature on a former occasion. Naturally there was difference of opinion expressed by the members. Thereupon the Government entrusted the whole matter to an officer who had before that nothing to do with that matter and knew nothing about it gave him complete discretion, called for a report, kept it secret—completely secret—and issued orders on that Report. That Report was submitted by a Committee composed of representatives of all major communities including those who asked for communal representation. If our hopes and fears are to be based on past experience, I am afraid, from the discussion that we have had here, the Government are likely to entrust this important matter to a person who is absolutely innocent of co-operation and call for a confidential report and deal with the matter in any manner they like. I want to impress upon Government that at least in this matter they should not follow such a course. There may be difference of opinion on some of the recommendations made by the Committee, but there is certainly a good deal that Government may in a way act upon as they ought to act upon. Now, Sir, what does this Report say? It clearly reveals the fact that, in spite of twenty years' work in the field of co-operation, apart from the existence of a few institutions, we have to begin things anew. The Report clearly says, as was pointed out by Mr. Easwara Pillai, that twenty years' activities have not resulted in the material or

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moral welfare that could naturally be expected from a movement of this kind during so long a period. The Committee makes recommendations beginning from provision for education and propaganda.

Sir, a good deal of expression of opinion turned on the powers to be conferred on the Registrar. If the movement has not made sufficient headway, if, as the Report says, we are at the beginning of things, I should think that at it is not all time that the departmental control should be relaxed. It was pointedly put whether, apart from the question of relaxing or not, there is any justification for adding to the control that is now being exercised. If the movement has not made sufficient progress and if lack of control is to any extent responsible for that lack of progress, I should for my part maintain that even the question of adding to the powers of the Department may well be considered. What we are here concerned with is not a technical question of what they call benevolent dictatorship or benevolent despotism. To me Sir, that was only a phrase which did not connote any meaning. We have to deal with realities. We ought to see that the Registrar who should control, should have the power in all the matters. We need not waste time on the interpretation of this phrase. If the working of the Societies has been such that we find that the Registrar should even have the power to modify or to cancel the bye-law of societies without even reference to the decisions of the Board of Management, I think, in the circumstances, even that power he should have.

And I say that, if this movement is to thrive, the departmental head should be given adequate power.

Another thing which I have to bring to the attention of the House is the part that personalities play in the affairs of the co-operative movement. As a matter of fact, it has become common knowledge among the public of this city that indecent conflict exists between the Registrar and the premier Co-operative Bank *viz*, the Trivandrum Central Bank. Sir, I do not intend to apportion blame between the Registrar and the authorities of the Central Bank. The Board of Directors of the Bank is composed of men of position, and influence. And the Registrar is a responsible officer of Government. Sir, it is a disgrace to see such conflict going on between them. If the persons composing the Board are at the top of the non-official side of the movement, the Registrar should also have a similar and corresponding status and rank in the Government service. Sir, it is no use blaming the primary school master for the defects of the movement. When we find that there is un-co-operative fight even between men of eminence like the members of the Board of the Central Bank and the Registrar, I do not think that there is any hope for the movement if adequate powers are not given to the Registrar, powers that are necessary for the real progress of the movement. Sir, a reference was made that the present Registrar—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It was not allowed and I am not going to allow you to refer to that aspect.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Sir, I do not propose to do so.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It has been already disallowed, and even if the member wants to refer to that aspect of the question I can't allow him.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, Travancore is a country where officialdom dominates and non-officials are generally considered one step below. In Travancore, the officers' status, influnce, importance and perstige are measured in terms of the pay he draws. So, Sir, I emphasise that the Registrar should be given the status of a Division Officer of the Land Revenue Department. I want the head of the department placed on a par in the matter of rank and importance with the Division Peishkar, because, as we all know, in the present conflict between the Central Bank and the Department, the Registrar is much handicapped by his limited powers and his low status as an officer. I can even say that the Government also give more weight and consideration to the words of the members of the Board of Management of the Central Bank than those of the Registrar.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Does the member know that a former Dewan of the State is now the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Yes, Sir, I know that. Further, another distinguished former Dewan of this State was also a Registrar of Co-operative Socities in Madras.

Now, with regard to the funds allotted to this Department. The Committee asks for only twice the amount now spent on the Department. According to the recommendations of the Committee, the Department requires only a lakh and eighty thousand rupees. The Government should not grudge that amount. If the movement is to progress on right lines, money, justly asked for should not be stinted. If the Government are not going to do that, let them scrap the whole movement and say that they could not spend the amount needed for this purpose. But they are spending lakhs and lakhs for the developments of roads in the city. This is a matter that is going to affect the needs of about two lakhs of co-operators and their families. As Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai observed, the future of the agriculturists of Travancore depends a large extent on the future of the co-operative movement in the State. We cannot go in for large scale factories as is being done in the western countries. So Government ought unstintingly to allot the necessary funds for the movement and must do all that is necessary for the progress of co-operation in the State.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House; firstly, on account of the useful object for which the motion for the grant is made, *viz.*, to translate the report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee into Malayalam. The purpose of this translation is that the useful information contained in the report might reach a much larger number of the co-operative

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public of the State. Secondly, I support the motion because it has given this House an opportunity of discussing the Report of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee, otherwise called the Devadhar Committee.

Sir, a word about the Report. I am not one of those who say that this Report of the Committee is an inexhaustible mine of co-operative lore or that it is the last word on co-operative theory and practice. Nor am I prepared to reject off-hand the Report with its many useful recommendations and suggestions. I regard this report, Sir, mainly from one standpoint, namely, that it is a very accurate historical survey of the movement ever since its inception. It was about 20 years ago that the movement was started in Travancore, of course, under Government auspices, that is, in 1089 or so. From the very beginning, there could be discerned certain defects in this movement; but unfortunately, the Government, or the leaders of the public, did not care to remove those defects in time so much so that, in the history of its working, so many bad features, so many encrustments and so many defects came to be associated with the movement.

A reading of this fairly acurate survey that it is contained in the report discloses certain characteristic features of the movement in Travancore. The first of the characteristic features of the movement in Travancore is the communal turn that the movement took from its very inception. The Committee have condemned this feature of the movement. It appears that most of the societies have taken a communal turn. There are societies for Nairs, Christians, and Ezhavas. I am at a loss to understand why a movement of this nature, which is pre-eminently an industrial and economic movement which ought to subserve the interest of all people irrespective of communities or castes, should adopt communalism. Why should such a movement take a communal turn in Travancore? That is a question for which some answer ought to be found. Probably this soil of Travancore is very congenial for communal growth. Whatever it is, this defect in the movement was not nipped in time. If so, we would not have the sorry spectacle of so many communal societies coming into existence. Whatever it is, the Committee have rightly said that the communal societies ought to be discouraged as far as possible and Government should never countenance the growth of such communal societies.

The second feature is the preponderance of credit societies and the comparatively poor number of non-credit institutions. Well, Sir, this is a problem which is not peculiar to Travancore alone, but which is a characteristic feature of the co-operative movement elsewhere in British India also. The movement has taken a peculiar turn in this respect, *viz.*, they are having in existence more credit societies than non-credit societies. Well Sir, I am sorry to observe that the Committee, who went into this question, did not offer a very bold and a very helpful and practical suggestion for the removal of this characteristic defect of the movement in Travancore. Of course, some

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attention is bestowed : but I should say that that is not the suggestion one should have expected from an expert body like the Co-operative Enquiry Committee who went into the whole question. Whatever it is, it is the bounden duty of the Government when they go into the various recommendations contained in the Report, to find out the real cause of this defect in the history of the movement in Travancore and to find out a suitable remedy for that.

The third characteristic feature disclosed by this historic survey is the fact that there is only a very poor working capital at the disposal of various societies, that is it is not in proportion to the large number of individuals who have become members of the societies. It is seen from the tables published in the Report that the membership per total population or per 10,000 of the population is greatest in Travancore. The average membership of a society in Travancore goes up to about 150, whereas in other parts of India it does not go up even to half of that. While we see that our societies are larger in the number of members as well as in their total numbers, we also observe that the working capital at the disposal of societies is very poor. That is because most of the societies do not command very great credit.

Well, Sir, lastly I want to tell you one matter that has given recently a good deal of heated controversy that is the question of non-official freedom and official control. Sir, with regard to this point, I should say that we are straying away from the main issue. Sir, the co-operative movement no doubt is a national movement and it is eminently a popular and democratic movement. It is a movement of the people, for the people and by the people. But it is only, in the best interests of true co-operation to have some sort of effective control over the affairs of the societies. This control should on no account be inconsistent with the essentially popular nature of the movement. It is of the people, for the people, by the people. Its motto is "each for all, and all for each". If this motto is kept in view, I do not think there is any room for any heated controversy as to the respective spheres of action of the two bodies, official and non-official.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : One of my friends, Mr. Easwara Pillai, said that the co-operative movement was forced upon the people of Travancore by the Government without any demand from them, and that the condition of the co-operative societies is now so bad that it is impossible to mend them and that therefore is better to end them. I am sorry I cannot agree with either of these statements. About thirty years ago in the second Sri Mulam Popular Assembly which met in Thulam 1081, one of the representations made by me was for the starting of co-operative societies in the State. This representation was repeated year after year by me and by other members of the Assembly until Sir P. Rajagopalachariar, who was then Dewan here, finally agreed to undertake

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legislation and to organise the co-operative movement here. It cannot therefore, be said that the co-operative societies were forced upon us by the Government without any demand from us.

The other statement, that this country is not properly suited for the growth of the movement, is equally unsustainable. The Devadhar Committee, after a very careful study of the conditions obtaining in Travancore, say—

> "We believe the soil here is as good as anywhere else. Only it has not been properly ploughed, manured and watered. We have seen in British India that the Government spent on co-operation far more money than in Travancore."

Therefore, in the opinion of the Committee, the soil here is quite suited for the movement; only it has not been properly ploughed, manured and watered. That is what we should aim at getting the Government to do.

Sir, much of the heated controversy on the subject centred round the question of the stiffening of Government control over these co-operative institutions. This Committee consisted of seven members, of whom five were non-officials and only two officials. It was presided over by no less a person than Mr. Devadhar, the President of the Servants of India Society, a society which is certainly not enamoured of benevolent ditcatorship or despotism of any kind. But it was suggested that the report was made without proper enquiry and any attempt to collect and collate facts. This charge is equally unfounded and untrue. I know, Sir, that the enquiry made by Mr. Devadhar was not at all desultory or cursory. It was a very searching enquiry that he made, more searching perhaps than that made by any other Committee or President. Mr. Devadhar certainly tried to collect as much information as was possible. No doubt he had to be absent from Trivandrum off and on; but that did not in any way affect the nature of the enquiry but only meant longer time, than was expected, to produce the report. Now, Sir, if such a Committee, presided over by such a distinguished gentleman, who had made co-operation a special study, after due enquiry and collection of facts, recommended the stiffening of the control of Government over co-operative societies, certainly there must have been very good and very convincing reasons for it. I think the facts amply support the conclusions of the Committee.

If we examine the Administration Report of the Registrar of Co operative Societies for 1109, we will find that he has divided societies into four classes according to their efficiency in working, *viz*, (1) model, (2) good, (3) average and (4) hopeless. Out of 1,697 societies, there are only 27 in the A class *i. e.*, model. In class B (good) there are 162 societies, in class C (average) there are 869 societies and 639 societies are brought into class D as hopeless societies. It is not clear what the Registrar means by 'average' societies. It is a very vague term. Out of 1,700 societies there are only 200 societies which are working well and all the rest are either dormant or are in a dead or dying condition. If an average is struck between 200 good societies and 1,500 bad societies,

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the average efficiency must be very low ; and therefore we may take it that, out of 1,700 societies, there are only 200 societies which are doing real good work. This is a very deplorable state of affairs indeed.

Sir, the Report gives two main reasons for this state of affairs. In the first place, there is lack of co-operative education among the people. That is a defect which Government alone can remove by starting co-operative training schools. The other cause is the mismanagement of these societies by their managing committees. That is the matter with which we are now concerned. The Committee itself has given instances of societies in which the recalcitrant members of the committees have appropriated the available funds and have been preventing the general body from meeting and superseding them by new election. In regard to such societies, the only solution is to arm the Registrar with power to supersede them. Even now there are only about 200 societies working properly. The rest are all hopelessly mismanaged. There is a good deal of misappropriation by the managing committee members. From my own personal experience of a few societies, I know that the committee members are solely responsible for the bad mismanagement. They divide among themselves whatever money is available ; and once the division of the spoils has been made, they prevent the general body from meeting to remove them and to replace them by better men. What is the remedy in such cases ? The only remedy, so far as I can see, is, as I have already stated, to arm the Registrar with the power of superseding such recalcitrant committees and appointing others in their stead. Some kind of power to prosecute such persons who misappropriate and embezzle money as well as to supersede committees which misbehave ought to be vested with the Registrar.

I have something more to say on this point ; but since my time is up, I shall conclude by answering a charge made by Mr. S. J. Nair against the President of the Kerala Provincial board of the Harijana Sevak Sangh.

Mr. S. J. Nair said that the President of the Kerala branch of the Harijan Sevak Sangh has recommended that a certain amount out of the Devaswom Fund may be utilised for the purpose of establishing colonies for the depressed classes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether it pertains to the Report.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) : Yes, Sir. It is mentioned in the Report. In this matter, Sir, I err in very good company. The Temple Entry Enquiry Committee, consisting of very orthodox Hindu gentlemen, recommended that one lakh of rupees out of the Devaswom Fund may be utilised or set apart for the economic uplift of the depressed classes. I may also say that the Government themselves have given Rs. 10,000 from the

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temple funds for the Hindu Mission for uplift work among the depressed classes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is it from the temple funds that the money has been allotted?

MR CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*) From the Devaswom Fund.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Is it from the Devaswom Fund?

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapuram*): It is from the allotment for *Japa Dakshina*.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): That is not the same thing as Devaswom Fund.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pattanapurvm*): Sir, a *Japa Dakshina* is also a part of the religious fund and the money given to the Hindu Mission is certainly not going to be used for the purpose of *Japa Dakshina* it is diverted for upliftment work among depressed classes. Further I may also say that the money recommended to be spent for the colonies is not intended to be a gift to the colonists, but only as a loan liable to be paid back in small instalments. The Devaswom is not therefore prejudicially affected by this arrangement.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: At least three members have now stood up. Perhaps there are also others. The House will remember that, at the time the Demand was made, the official member had no opportunity to speak. I therefore propose to give him a reasonable time now. At the same time, I should like to make it possible for all these three or four gentlemen who have now stood up and also for others, if any, to express their opinion on the Report. Therefore, at this stage I think 5 minutes will be a reasonable time-limit for each member to speak. I hope that is a compromise which, in the circumstances, the House will agree to.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): I rise to support the Demand; I congratulate the Committee on its very valuable Report. I am sure it is not possible to give effect to all the recommendations contained in the Report immediately. Anyhow most of the recommendations have to be given effect to as early as possible in the interests of the agriculturists of the State. If we examine closely the condition of the primary societies in rural parts, it will be clear that mismanagement has been the chief cause of their failure. There is lack of control and supervision. The supervising unions themselves do not function properly, since they do not pay sufficient remuneration to the supervisors who do the work. Some of the unions are solely responsible for creating disunion among the members. We have heard so much about democracy to-day. When we turn our eyes to European countries, what we now find is not democracy but despotism and dictatorship. They are again reverting to monarchy. If the Government have any idea of giving some help to

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[Mr. K. Mahomed.]

the masses in the country, especially to the poor agriculturists, it is very essential that the Departmental Head should be invested with the necessary powers; and by the judicious exercise of such powers, he will be able to raise the tone and morale of the societies. The Central Co-operative Bank, Trivandrum, is the premier co-operative institution in Travancore. There is a great tug of war between the board of management on the one side and the Registrar on the other. The non-official members are commanding the day and the Registrar is everywhere defeated. Even in some of the primary societies, misappropiation is the order of the day, because most of them are being managed by vernacular school teachers. They say that they are not paid by the Co-operative Department. They receive their pay from the Education Department and so they do not submit to control by the officers of the Co-operative Department. Since they are paid by the Education Department they will be careful only about their work in the educational institutions. But at the end of the year, they influence the general body to allow them to get their bonus. Sometimes it will be one hundred rupees and sometimes it will be less or more according to the profit that each society earns. Then, in the Central Institute here, there is a peculiar system of voting, that is, the system of plural voting. The principle of 'one man one vote' ought to be accepted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you mean the Central Institute or the Central Bank?

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): I mean the Central Bank. In regard to agricultural loans, there is a recommendation in the report that they should be kept at the disposal of the Central Bank which ought to distribute the amount to the members of societies. Instead of giving the whole amount to the entire management of one institution, iti is better to distribute it to the Taluk Banks, Urban Banks, and Societies which are well managed, so that it would be very easy to get loans from such institutions, so that the demands of the members may be met very easily. Unless Government put into operation most of the important recommendations in the report and unless more powers are given to the Departmental Head, there is no use of spending large amounts year by year for the Co-operative Department.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha*): Sir, let me add a few words with regard to the report under discussion. I may say at the very outset that I was connected with the movement for the last ten years, my connection being not only with regard to the provincial co-operative societies, but also with the management of the Central Bank for three years, as one of the directors in the board of management. So that I claim to have an intimate knowledge of the working of the co-operative societies in Travancore. As my friend Mr. Easwara Pillai said, I know for certain that most of the societies are hopelessly and miserably managed. It is not exactly a question of misappropriation of money or some such thing. It is want of exact knowledge of co-operation.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : What was the period during which he was on the Board of Management ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I heard Mr. Narayana Pillai saying how long he was there in the Board.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha*) : I was on the Board for three years preceding the recent election. Now the whole question turns round this point whether the Registrar should be invested with larger powers or not in times of necessity. I may say that, of all the committees which the Government have constituted with regard to various things, this is the only committee which had the pleasure to come to my taluk and take evidence. Though the permanent President of the Committee was absent for the time being it was presided over by no less an officer than Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai. Even at that time I was representing some bank there, and I believe I was then one of the managing directors of the Central Bank. I pressed that the Government officers should be invested with more powers, if the societies have to work properly. Now the question whether they should be invested with more powers or not is before us. But I may say that it is not for our present consideration, because the Bill pertaining to it will come some time hence before this Assembly. Recommendation No. 279 says that the draft Bill may be accepted. My point is that the draft Bill cannot be accepted as it is and unless and until it is brought forward before the House in its usual form. With regard to the recommendations in the report, I would submit that most of them are valuable and are practical suggestions for the better working of the societies.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You say that there is popular support to this draft Bill in the same way as there was popular support for the original Co-operative Regulation ?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha*) : Yes. I have had occasion to study the existing Co-operative Societies Regulation very carefully and exhaustively out of necessity and I may say that it is the most defective Regulation that could be found in the statute book of Travancore. As such it should be suitably amended ; and certainly when it comes for amendment, it has to be considered whether the Registrar or any other authority should be invested with more powers or not.

With regard to benevolent dictatorship and other things, I have got a word to say. Even in regard to what is true co-operation there is difference of opinion among the so-called eminent co-operators. To quote one instance, at the time of the depression the question arose whether renewals could be allowed or not for arrear loans. It is only a question of mere book adjustment. 99 per cent. of the co-operators said that to do so is not true co-operation and that it should not be allowed. But it was Mr. Ramadas Pantulu who said that it was true co-operation to allow renewals. I believe this was in the course of his presidential address in the Ramnad District Conference. So there is difference of opinion even in regard to the idea of co-operation. What I want to say is that what is practicable from the point of view of the

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[Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai.]

workability of the societies in Travancore ought to be done. Considering all these things, I should say that the Registrar should be invested with greater powers for the effective control of these societies.

With regard to minor details, I may say just a word or two. With regard to the Central Bank, recommendation No. 11 says that there should be a paid Secretary. That should be extended to many of the other banks also, except perhaps in the case of certain primary societies. There also there should be paid Secretaries if possible. Otherwise trouble will arise.

My friend Mr. S. J. Nair was dealing with the question of graduates being entertained. There are at present so many young people who have got co-operative training and their claims should be preferred first and then only graduates should be entertained.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): സർ, പരസ്പരസഹായാന്വേഷണക്കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് മലയാളത്തിൽ തർജ്ജിമചെയ്തതിനു പ്രതിഫലംകൊടുക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഈ സഭയോട് അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി ഒരു സംഗതികൊണ്ടു വരേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ നാട്ടിൽ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്ഭാഷ വശമില്ലാത്ത സഹകാരികളും വളരെയുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ സൌകര്യത്തിനായി ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഇംഗ്ലീഷിനോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ മലയാളത്തിലും പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മുൻചരിത്രം നോക്കിയാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ ഈ സഹകരണബോധം വരുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ ഇവിടെ സഹകരണം ധാരാളം നടപ്പിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെയോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ പരിഷ്കാരത്തിന്റെയോ ഉന്നടപടികളുടെ ഫലമായി സഹകരണബുദ്ധി ഇപ്പോഴും മാഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെയും ജനങ്ങളോടു സഹകരണമില്ലെന്നു ഇതിനുള്ള ഒരു പ്രധാനലക്ഷ്യമാണ്, ബഹുഭൂരിപക്ഷംപേർക്കു അറിയാൻ വയ്യാത്ത ഒരുഭാഷയിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിക്കയും അതിന്റെ മലയാളതർജ്ജിമ വളരെ താമസിച്ചു അടുത്തദിവസംമാത്രം അച്ചടിച്ചു പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതു ഒരുതരത്തിലും നല്ലതായ ഒരു നയമല്ല. ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം ഭാഗങ്ങളെപറ്റിയാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രതിപാദിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു എനിക്കുതന്നെ നല്ല നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) മെമ്പക്കു തർജ്ജിമ കിട്ടിയോ?

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MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): എനിക്കു ഇന്നലെ വൈകുന്നേരം കിട്ടി. എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചല്ല ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷിലെ റിപ്പോർട്ടതന്നെ വായിച്ചു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ എനിക്കു കഴിയും. ഇംഗ്ലീഷിലുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടു പരസ്യം ചെയ്ത ഉടനെ അതിലടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെന്തെല്ലാമാണെന്നറിയുന്നതിനു ഇംഗ്ലീഷുഭാഷാജ്ഞാനമില്ലാത്ത പലരും എന്റെ അടുക്കൽ വരികയുണ്ടായി. അതു തർജ്ജിമചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള സമയക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ആ പുസ്തകം അവരുടെ നേരെ എറിഞ്ഞുകൊടുത്തു. വായിക്കാമെങ്കിൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കൊള്ളുവാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. മറനേകം റിപ്പോർട്ടുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഈ ഒരു നയമാണു ഗവണ്മെൻറു പിൻതുടരുന്നതു്. ഇതു് ഒരിക്കലും നല്ലതല്ല.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): മലയാളത്തിൽ തർജ്ജിമചെയ്തു വരുന്നതുവരെ ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടു പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തരുതെന്നാണോ മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla* I): ബഹുജനങ്ങൾ ഇതു മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇതു പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തുമ്പോൾ ഒരു തരക്കാരെമാത്രം നോക്കിയാൽ പോരാ; നേരെമറിച്ചു ഇംഗ്ലീഷുപരിജ്ഞാനമില്ലാത്ത ഏറിയക്കൂറു ബഹുജനങ്ങൾക്കും മനസ്സിലാകത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഇംഗ്ലീഷിനോടു കൂടിത്തന്നെ മലയാളതർജ്ജിമയും പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണു പറയുന്നതു്. വളരെ പണം ചിലവാക്കിയുണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ടാണ് ഇതു്. അതിലെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നോക്കാൻ ജനങ്ങൾ ആകാംക്ഷയോടുകൂടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): മലയാളതർജ്ജിമ വരാൻ കാലതാമസം നേരിടുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതുവരെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് റിപ്പോർട്ടു പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കണമെന്നാണോ മെമ്പറുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) കാലതാമസം കൂടാതെതന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഇതു വഹിക്കാൻ കഴിയും.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): ആദ്യം മലയാളത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്യുകയും പിന്നീടു നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻ വയ്യാത്തവരുടെ സൌകര്യത്തിനായി ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Thiruvalla I*): അതു് വളരെ നല്ലതാണു്.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ ആദ്യം എഴുതിയതിനെ മലയാള ത്തിൽ തർജ്ജിമചെയ്ത വകയ്ക്കു പ്രതിഫലം കൊടുക്കാനാണ് ഈ ധനാ ഭ്യർത്ഥന.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : അത് മനസിലാക്കികൊണ്ടാ ണ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള ശുപാർശകളെപ്പറ്റി പൊതു വെ പറയുന്നതിനു സമയമുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഞാൻ സംശയിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കി ലും ഉഴുനാട്ടിലെ ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരൻ എന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിക്കു ചില സംഗതികൾ പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. ഈ വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോ ളം സഹകരണമല്ല, അഴിമതിയാണു ഉള്ളതു എന്നു പലരും പറയു കയുണ്ടായി. അതു വാസ്തവമാണു. ഇവിടെ കാണുന്നതു അഴിമതി യിലുള്ള സഹകരണമാണ്. ഇതു ഭയങ്കരമാണ. ആ ന്യൂനതയെ പരി ഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. കൊട്ടാരക്കര മി. ഏ. ശിവപിള്ള പ്രസ്താപിച്ചതുപോലെ ഈയൊരവസ്ഥയെ നീക്കാൻ കഴി യുമെങ്കിൽ അതാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറു മുമ്പു ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്.

MR. V. RAMAKRISHNA PANIKKAR (*Karthikapalli*): I support the motion for a grant of Rs. 100 to be given to the translator of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee Report. I may mention that this is a very meagre amount and quite insufficient to compensate the stupendous labour spent on the translation.

Objection seems to have been taken to the translation on the ground that the original itself does not deserve to be translated. The first speaker on the subject Mr. Sivathanu Pillai seems to have expressed this opinion. I quite disagree with him. The observation made by that member is quite unfounded. The Report contains many useful suggestions. The Committee has to be congratulated for the successful manner in which they have treated the subject of co-operation.

In view of the fact that many gentlemen here have spoken on the subject, I would have kept quiet at this fagend of the day had it not been for the fact that I am one who is closely connected with this movement. I have been a co-operator from the very inception of the movement. I have been the President of a Co-operative Union for several years and even now I am the President of a Taluk Bank. With my limited or unlimited—as you may take it—experience, my opinion is that the Committee has done yeoman service in presenting the Report to the public.

The charge laid at the door of the Committee seems to be that the report gives room for unnecessary official interference with co-operative societies. In my opinion, the charge is unfounded. It is true that popular institutions should be allowed to run without let or hindrance

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from the official side. But co-operative societies stand on a different footing from such popular institutions. Popular institutions are constituted of educated people. Whereas in the case of co-operative societies, the majority of the members are almost illiterate because the people have enlisted themselves as members for obtaining loans and not for any other purpose. Therefore, other popular institutions stand on a footing different from co-operative societies. Therefore, it is the duty of the Registrar to see that theseco.operative societies are properly controlled. As Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai said, it is the duty of the Registrar to step in and to remove any recalcitrant committee whenever the Registrar finds that there is mismanagement in the society. Of course, there is provision in the present law giving power to the Registrar to wind up societies which are being mismanaged. That is an unlimited power If the Registrar can be trusted or that purpose, why not he be trusted with power in respect of matters which are of a less onerous nature ?

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*) : ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഉള്ള ഈ അഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. പൊതുജനസംഘങ്ങളുടേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും അഭിനന്ദനത്തിന് പാത്രീഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ദേവധാർകമ്മിറ്റിറിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ ബഹുജനോപയോഗത്തെ മുൻനിറുത്തി മലയാളത്തിൽ പരിഭാഷപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് തോന്നിയ ദയവ് ബഹുമാന്യമാണെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഏറ്റവും പ്രശംസാർഹങ്ങളായ അനേകം നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോടുകൂടിയ സഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനംകൊണ്ട് രാജ്യത്തിനും രാജ്യവാസികൾക്കും ഉണ്ടാകാവുന്ന പ്രയോജനങ്ങളെ ഒന്നൊന്നായി ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ളതു് ഇവിടെ നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള ഓരോ അനുമോദന പ്രസംഗങ്ങളിൽനിന്നുംതന്നെ വെളിവാകുന്നുമുണ്ട്. കർഷകരാജ്യമായ ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനങ്ങളെ വിവിധങ്ങളായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽകൂടി സഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനം കൊണ്ട് സഹായിക്കണമെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ആഗ്രഹിക്കയും അതിലേക്ക ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, അവർ പ്രശംസാർഹമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള അതിപ്രധാനങ്ങളായ ശുപാർശകളെ ഒന്നൊന്നായി യഥാകാലം പ്രായോഗികമാക്കി തീർക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ, അതുനിമിത്തം രാജ്യവാസികൾക്ക് വളരെ ഗുണവും ഉൽക്കർഷവും പടിപടിയായി ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ നാനാതരത്തിൽ അവശത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരായ അനേകായിരം അധഃകൃതജനസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിനായും അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കു

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ഖമായ ഫലത്തെ നിലനിറുത്തുന്നതിനായും ഉള്ള പലപല നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ശുപാർശകളും ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ കമ്മറിക്കാർ യഥായോഗ്യം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ വക നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഓരോന്നും യഥാവിധി നിറവേറുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അതു വളരെ പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കും. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷണ വകുപ്പുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ഗുണം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല എന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നില്ലെന്നുമുള്ള പരമാർത്ഥം ഇതിന് മുമ്പുതന്നെ പലരും സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അതിലേക്ക് നിയുക്തനായിട്ടുള്ള അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷകനൊ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രവർത്തകസമിതിയൊ അധഃകൃതർ ആഗ്രഹിച്ചിരുന്ന രീതിയിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടൊ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതിനോക്കിയാൽ നമുക്ക് അതിൻെറ യഥാർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതാണ്. അധഃകൃതരുടെ ദയനീയ നിലകളെപ്പറ്റി കമ്മിറിക്കാർ അന്വേഷിക്കുന്നതിനും അവരുടെശരിയായ സമുന്നമനമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ഗാഢമായി ചിന്തിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽതന്നെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകൻെറ പ്രവർത്തനപരിപാടിയാലുള്ള ചില പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി കമ്മറിക്കാർ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. എങ്കിലും അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷകനും പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘംരജിസ്ട്രാരും ഒരാൾതന്നെ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് കമ്മറിക്കാർ പറയുന്നത്. ഇതു് ആശാസ്യമാണൊ എന്നു സംശയിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷകനും പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാരും ഒരാൾ തന്നെ ആയിരുന്നകാലത്തു് അതിൻെറ ശരിയായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് രജിസ്ട്രാക്ക് സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതു് ആരും പരസ്യമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന പരമാർത്ഥമാണ്. അതിനാൽ അധഃകൃത സംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പിനെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതുപ്പോലെ തന്നെ പ്രത്യേകമാക്കി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പറയപ്പെട്ടന്ന ശുപാർശകളെ ഒന്നൊന്നായി നടത്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സദയം ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണാവശ്യം.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Sir, I want to submit a point for your decision. This is a question which is not going to be decided now in a definite issue and as such the reply of the official member does not seem to be a necessary part of the discussion. I would like to know from the Chair whether the whole time cannot be allowed to the non-official members so that every non-official member may get some time.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am sorry I am not able to oblige the member by accepting his suggestion. Members, official and non-official, have a right to speak in conformity with the rules. Not a single member on the official side has spoken till now. I, therefore, propose to allow the official members also sufficient opportunity to participate the

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debate. But I have absolutely no objection, considering the importance of the subject, to allow some more members to talk. We shall sit for a few minutes more. I am prepared to do that.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): I wish to know from the Chair the method by which members are selected for speaking. Is it done according to communities or according to parties?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am very sorry that such a question has been put to the Chair. I do not want to differentiate between one member and another. I certainly did not expect that question from a member like Mr. Velayudhan Pillai. I am alive to the fact that, irrespective of communal considerations, members have a right of speaking, restricted only by the discretion of the Chair. I recognise that there are parties in the House— the Nationalist party, the Independent party, and the Liberal party. Members belonging to all parties have been getting up to speak. In exercising my discretion, I thought I must not restrict the opportunity of any member simply because he belongs to a small party. If, as is done in other Chambers, party organisation is complete, and if only a few members of a party come forward to speak, the position of the Chair would be easier. I think that members like Mr. Velayudhan Pillai know that the best is being done. The Chair knows that there are communities. This House also knows that there are communities. But I can assure the House that, merely from communal considerations, I have never selected members for speaking. At the same time, I may say that, in selecting speakers, representatives of various communities may be given a chance. That is kept in view even in the constitution of the Assembly.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): A word of personal explanation. I could not find my way to understand the logic——

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot permit Mr. Velayudhan Pillai to give any personal explanation, because the ruling is a ruling and it is not going to be changed because of the personal explanation. In the interest of work in the Assembly, I cannot permit Mr. Velayudhan Pillai to make any personal explanation.

Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai will please speak.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Sir, apart from the merits of the report and the practicability of the suggestions and recommendations contained in the Report, I wish to emphasise, strictly keeping myself within the demand, only one aspect of the question. I know Sir, that the House is under a limitation in that it cannot recommend a pie more than what has been moved under the Demand. But it should not go on record that a representative House like this did not view in as proper a manner as is required the labours spent upon the preparation of a translation like this. It will be quite inhuman if a remark of the kind does not proceed at least from this side of the House.

We see, Sir, that the translation of the report contains about 383 pages of closely printed small pica matter. If it were done in ordinary readable type, the pages would have swelled to thrice the volume now before the House, for the copying of which alone it would merit a remuneration of Rs. 500.

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MR. CHANGANACHERRY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Kunnattur* cum *Pathanapuram*) : May I know whether the Inspector who was engaged in the translation of the report was doing it in addition to his other duties or whether he was on special duty?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : My information is, that it was in addition to the ordinary duties pertaining to the Inspector.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : May I correct it, Sir? The Inspector was on special duty for translation of the report. So, he drew his pay as Inspector while he was engaged in the translation. He was not attending to his other duties when he was translating the report.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Sir, I have to revise my views and oppose the supplementary demand and not a pie need be given to the officer who was doing the work devolved on him as an officer. He was on special duty and I fail to understand the reason why such a huge amount of Rs. 100 should be allotted by Government for translation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether the member advocate payment of a larger amount or smaller amount than the one demanded now?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : When I made a representation at the beginning, I was under the impression that this piece of work, *viz.*, translation, was over and above the ordinary duties of the Inspector as such. Now I am given to understand by the Chief Secretary that, at the time when the Malayalam version was under preparation, the Inspector was asked to attend to this alone. Therefore it comes within the purview of the duties allotted to him and he was all the while doing it as such and drawing his pay as such. So, I do not see the reason why a pie more should be given in addition to his pay.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Is not deputation allowance given to officers while on other duty?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May be. If the Government are considering that aspect of the matter, I submit that the amount now allotted by way of deputation is not at all sufficient. There should be some rhyme or reason and I am sure, no self-respecting individual, unless he is obliged under circumstances obtaining in service, would accept a paltry amount of Rs. 100 for the labour done by him. This illustrates not healthy co-operation, Sir, but compulsory cooperation and as such it would be only in fairness to the officer who was responsible for the production, no doubt a beautiful production of the kind—that the House has to record its appreciation of the services done by him. It is only that Government should consider the proper labours done by the officer and see that special consideration is meted out to him.

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[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

ഞാൻ ഈ അഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ആരുംതന്നെ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും അവരുടെ താല്പര്യങ്ങളെ മുൻനിറുത്തി ഒന്നാംതരം ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ കമ്മറ്റിക്കാരോടുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു. അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ ഉന്നമനത്തിൽ താല്പര്യംപ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുമാറു് ഗവണ്മെൻറും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതു് വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്നില്ല എന്നുള്ള കാര്യം ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ സംഘങ്ങളെ നല്ലതരത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായി ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നസൌജന്യം അഞ്ചു് ഗ്രൂപ്പു് സിക്രട്ടറിമാർ മാത്രമാണു്. അവരെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിഷ്കാസനം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു് റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പറയുന്നു. ഇവർ അഞ്ചുപേരേയും വെളിയിലാക്കിയാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് പരിശുദ്ധമാകുമെന്നു് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ തോന്നുന്നു. അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെ വകയായി ഇപ്പോൾ ഫെഡറേഷനുകളാണുള്ളതു് ഈ സംഘങ്ങളെ മാറുപരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു് പ്രയത്നിക്കാത്ത കാലത്തോളം അതിനെ വാസ്തവത്തിലുള്ള സഹകരണം എന്നു പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിലേക്കു് അവരിൽനിന്നു സ്ക്രീനിംഗ് പരീക്ഷപാസ്സായിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളെമാത്രം സിക്രട്ടറിമാരായി നിയമിച്ചു് ഈ സംഘങ്ങളെ മുന്നോട്ടു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

അധ്യക്ഷസംക്ഷണ വകുപ്പുകൂടി ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുകയാണു്. ഈ വകുപ്പുകൊണ്ടു് അധ്യക്ഷന്മാർക്കു് കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു് ഇതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിലേക്കു് സ്റ്റാറ്റസ്സും വിശാലവീക്ഷണവും ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയും ഉള്ള ഒരാളെ നിയമിച്ചു് കൂടുതൽ പ്രയോജനകരമാക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കണം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ആളുകളെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊരു സംഗതിയും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു മുമ്പുതന്നെ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആളിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയാൻ പാടില്ല.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ അന്തസ്സും അധികാരവും അധ്യക്ഷന്മാർക്കു് പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുമാറു വിശാലവീക്ഷണവും ഉള്ള ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പ

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[Mr. N. John Joseph.]

റയുന്നുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ട് ആ സംഗതിയിൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദയാ ദൃഷ്ടി പതിഞ്ഞു കാണാൻ അഭ്യർഥിക്കുന്നു.

ബീ. എ. ബിരുദധാരണം സഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന് ഒരു മാനദണ്ഡമായി കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ കരുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് തോന്നുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ബീ. എ. ബിരുദം സഹകരണവും തമ്മിൽ അജഗജാന്തരമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി പ്രത്യേകം ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇന്ന് സഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിന് വേണ്ടിവേലചെയ്യുന്നത് ബീ. എ. ബിരുദധാരികളം അല്ല. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിലുള്ള സഹകരണ മനസ്ഥിതി ഹൃദയത്തിൽ അങ്കുരിച്ച് സന്മനസ്സോടുകൂടി സഹകരണത്തിന് വേണ്ടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നത് ബീ. എ. ക്കാർ അല്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി രജിസ്ട്രാക്ക്തന്നെ ബോധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണ്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവർക്ക് ഗവണ്മെൻറു യാതൊരുപ്രോത്സാഹനവും ചെയ്യ കാണുന്നില്ല. അധികൃതരുടെ ഇടയിൽ വേർചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അവരിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടന്മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിക്കണം, എന്നാൽ മാത്രമേ മറ്റുള്ള സംഘക്കാരോടൊപ്പം വന്ന് ഈ വകയോടുകൂടി ഒന്നിച്ചുചേരാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ.

MR K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, one must pause a while before deciding upon either to congratulate or condemn the framers of the report. In my opinion, though the report is full of valuable information, at the same time, one cannot escape seeing the dishonest, nay, the deliberately dishonest versions contained therein. I am sorry I have to use the word dishonest because I cannot escape expressing my views. In the very short time allotted to me, I shall try to bring to the notice of the House how the committee has been deliberately dishonest in some of their recommendations. I also feel it my duty to draw the attention of the House to some of the laudable recommendations contained in the report

The committee's observation of series of discrepancies such as the co-ordinate development of wealth and pauperism, of wealth and crime, of high standards of life and abject penury and suggestions for remedying them as far as possible by organisations directed towards real retconsruction and agriculturalcolonization,suggestions for the relief of indebtedness of the agriculturist who to-day"is born in debt, lives in debt, dies in debt and bequeaths debt", their strong advocacy to the Government for making handsome subsidies and other help to such co-operative organisation like the Co-operative Institute, co operative insurance society, the central produce society and other useful bodies are certainly laudable and welcome suggestions. But the committee has very deliberately avoided to quote in full the remarks of the President of the Third All-India Co-operative Conference as has been referred to by Messrs. Sivathanu Pillai and P. K. Narayana Pillai; not only have they distorted

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the version and carefully curtailed it to suit their convenience but deliberately omitted to quote the important resolutions passed at the same conference.

Again, the real needs of rural population and suggestions for their betterment of life do not find adequate place in the report. Closely allied to this is the temperance movement which they ought to have advocated as an important measure of rural uplift work of primary societies. The report is silent in the matter. Probably they did not wish to incur the displeasure of the Government by recommending a measure which would affect their revenue receipts. But in the discharge of their onerous duties, this important problem affecting the welfare of the peasantry ought to have received serious consideration at the hands of the committee.

I shall now bring to the notice of the House some of the objectionable clauses in the draft Bill. They cannot be justified by any right-thinking man who has any sense of real interest of the movement at heart or a sense of proportion in matters regarding the organisation of popular institutions.

Some of the powers given to the Registrar are excessive and they should be deleted from the Draft Bill. Revision of byelaws is a very important matter which should not be tackled by the Registrar alone as he pleases. Think how monstrous it is to allow a stranger or a single individual standing outside an organisation being empowered to deal as he pleases with the byelaws of a constitution into which a few individuals have voluntarily entered as parties for their mutual and collective benefit! Is it not shocking to the sense of democracy and principles of contract and popular institutions? I have, now, to offer a few words regarding the power of supersession of the committee of a society intended to be given to the Registrar as shown by clause 47 of the draft Bill published in the Report.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*): Sir, my task has been rendered quite easy as I am not called upon, at this stage, to traverse over the wide field of the committee's recommendations. The only one criticism that has been levelled against the recommendation of the committee has been concentrated on some of the provisions in the draft Bill. In regard to the draft Bill, Sir, as a member of the committee, if I may take this House into confidence, I may state that the draft Bill was prepared, in the absence of technical advice, by the committee with the greatest diffidence and trepidation. The committee had the only alternative of copying the provisions of law obtaining in the statutory enactments of the neighbouring Madras Presidency and also of Mysore and Bombay. The committee deliberately refrained from making any recommendations based on the provisions of the draft Bill. I have perused all the 295 recommendations over and over again and I could not find any specific recommendation based on any of the provisions of the draft Bill.

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[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

In regard to the one recommendation that was adverted to by my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I beg to submit, that it is a point embodied in the report. The proposal is to have an element of nomination by Government in the Board of Management of the Central Co-operative Bank. That is introduced with a view to remove any deficiency of communal or regional representation. That may also tend to create a higher and still greater degree of confidence in the minds of the investing public, and at the same time to be of help to obtain financial aid from Government when the need arises by way of grant to these institutions as a result of implementing some of the recommendations.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I ask whether recommendation No. 278 does not lay down the procedure for that ?

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*) : No. The committee were aware that in preparing the draft Bill, it will be subject to a thorough scrutiny by the Law Officers of Government and that it would be formally introduced into this House for very detailed consideration. It is open to this House to so shape the Bill as to suit the prime requirements of the country. It is also the privilege of the members of this House to delete provisions which are obnoxious and objectionable and to insert or retain clauses which are essential and necessary for the healthy development of the co-operative movement in the State.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Does the committee take up the responsibility to modify the principle of the Bill ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The fact that the members of the committee have signed that Report shows that they have taken up the responsibility.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : But the Registrar was giving a different version.

MR. M. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Registrar of Co-operative Societies*); : Sir, I was referring to the circumstances under which the Committee was forced to prepare the draft Bill. It was one of the terms of reference made to them by Government. The whole criticism is but an echo of one of the resolutions passed at a recent conference held in Trivandrum and that resolution reads thus :

> "This Conference is of opinion that the Report of the Devadhar Committee reveals an attempt on the part of that body to place the movement under the unquestioned and unchallengeable control of a single individual, and as such is calculated to strike at the very root of the movement which in essence is a drastic one".

I am sure the House will agree that this is a mischevious resolution and that it casts anunmerited aspersion not only on the distinguished President who is not only a great social worker but an earnest, enthusiastic and practical co-operator over three decades, but also on the non-official members who have devoted so much of their time and labour for the formulation of recommendations which are calculated to foster and develop this important movement in the State.

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In conclusion, I have only to request the House that they will be pleased to sanctionthis paltry sum and I think even my friend Mr. Sivathanu Pillai would find his way to withdraw his objection although the mischievous mouse of a report may be occasionally gnaw ing at his feet.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : The last sentence was not audible. It seems to cast some aspersion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): He began with the word "mischievous".

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He was only trying to show that what the Committee did was not a mistake.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will now adjourn and meet again on Monday 11 o' clock.

The House adjourned at 5-3 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP;
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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